

The Ring of Valor: The role of schools

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Fact Sheet #7

Administrators

Establish a clear, unambiguous written policy about bullying

This policy should include a behavioral definition of bullying and a description of its consequences, the responsibilities of all adults in the school for preventing and reacting to bullying, and the consequences for both the child doing the bullying and the onlookers who do nothing to stop it. Make it clear how you expect children to treat each other and explain permissible forms of self-defense. Involve children in formulating policy. Expect all adults in the school to know and support the policy.

Make the school a safe community

Eliminate hidden corners and secluded places that provide opportunities for bullying. Provide adult supervision at all times. Build a sense of community among children at your school.

Meet with parents

Involve your PTA/PTO in your efforts to prevent and manage bullying. Support teachers in their work with parents and be willing to arbitrate conflict when necessary.



In this *Bullying* series:

1. *Bullying fundamentals*
2. *From teasing to bullying*
3. *Bullying facts*
4. *Responding to bullying*
5. *From victim to target*
6. *From spectator to witness*
7. *The role of schools*
8. *Issues for parents*

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If you have any questions or comments, you can contact the author at casmith@ksu.edu.

Teachers

Explain the rules and consequences for bullying

Make sure children understand the difference between friendly teasing and bullying. Identify bullying behavior that is not allowed. Assert a clear position in opposition to any form of cruelty and explain school policy.

Involve children in discussions about bullying

Talk with children about bullying and what we need to do to both prevent and stop bullying when it occurs. Give children a voice in responding to the problem. Avoid labeling any child as a "bully."

Be alert to victimization

Respond firmly to bullying. Adults in the school must react emotionally and intelligently to bullying when it occurs. There must be no ambiguity in their strong disapproval of all forms of cruelty. Children are often hesitant to approach adults about bullying for fear of making it worse. Look for signs of fear in children: physical illness, withdrawal, aggression, or absenteeism.

Maintain a written record of incidents of bullying

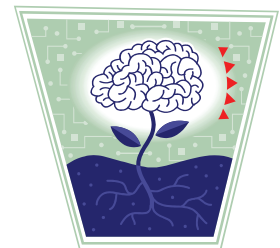
Keep and update a journal of the facts and dates/times of any bullying you have witnessed.

Expect children to stand up for themselves

Focus on developing courage in children; teach assertiveness and self-defense skills, but *step in when children need help*.

Communicate with parents

Inform parents of any incidents of bullying and make sure they know they can talk to you.



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