

Approaching the School

Spotty and Dot walk to school together. Spotty is looking worried and is reassured by Dot. At the school they knock on the teacher's door, and are invited in. Dot encourages Spotty to share and the teacher listens carefully, bringing Dot into the conversation as well. The film ends with the three of them deep in discussion, with Spotty leading it.

Narrated Message // *It is important that we work together with schools to ensure our children's well-being. Cultural and language barriers, racism and past discrimination can sometimes make it difficult for us to approach schools. But there are programs and support for us as First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples that can help us become more involved. We can collaborate as parents and teachers, acting as positive role models. Approaching a teacher when our child is being bullied, bullying others or watching it happen is difficult. We all have a role to play in preventing bullying. Working together, we can create more caring and positive learning environments for our children.*

IDEAS

- Children might feel afraid to stop the bullying or ashamed of not having stopped it. They may be afraid to ask for help. It is useful for our children and for us to know who to talk to at the school about bullying
- Available and caring adults, making the time and space to talk about bullying and other problems, can change everything.
- It is important to allow children to take the lead in talking about the bullying that happened to them. Listening carefully will make a difference.
- When we know we are not alone and that the school will help us, we can be more helpful to our children. Adults can work together and act as positive role models to young people.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Family Members

1. What are some of the messages in this film?
2. What might help you to talk about a problem with a teacher or principal?
3. What are ways to make sure that children take the lead in talking and planning when we reach out to others?
4. How can parents and teachers listen carefully and help our children problem-solve?
5. Do you have any personal stories to share?

School Staff and Community Leaders

1. How did the teacher in this film demonstrate support for the parent and student?
2. Do you have a space and time when parents and their children can come to discuss concerns privately? What are some of the challenges of being accessible in this way?
3. How can your school and the wider school community support you in creating opportunities for dialogue on bullying?
4. Do you know of strategies for building strong positive relationships between school staff and parents?
5. Can you share an experience where you felt you worked well with a parent in helping to support a student involved in a bullying incident? Is there anything you might do differently?
6. Are there any additional responses that might further support and meet the specific needs of Aboriginal children and family members?