

Bullying Hurts

Fones is waiting for the school bus with a group of students, including Toof. Spotty arrives with a hand drum and is happily playing it. Fones and another student begin to bully Spotty. They grab and throw the drum away, and record a video of Spotty crying, which they post online. Many of the students watch it and laugh, while others look on uncomfortably. Spotty clearly feels hurt and lonely.

Narrated Message // *Having self worth is important for each of us. When our children venture into the world they can often find cultural discrimination and bullying. This can undermine their sense of self worth. Discrimination and bullying of any kind is serious. The intention to hurt someone is an act of aggression. Discrimination and bullying cause pain and can leave a lasting effect for everyone involved.*

IDEAS

- Understanding that being bullied can cause physical and emotional pain. Those who are bullied can feel lonely, alone and afraid.
- When bullying means attacks on who we are as Indigenous peoples, it can be especially difficult and painful.
- People who see the bullying happening are involved in many ways, and are sometimes part of the bullying; oftentimes when they don't really want to be.
- Those who are bullied, as well as those who see the bullying happen, may be afraid to say something to the people who are doing the bullying or to get help. They can feel very upset and nervous.
- Bullying via phone and the internet is common and is known as cyberbullying. It is not acceptable under Ontario's Education Act.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Family Members

1. What are some of the messages in this film?
2. Who are the different people involved in the bullying?
3. What do the different people seem to be feeling?
4. Some of the students seem worried but don't seem to be doing anything. What is happening?
5. How might this bullying harm the people involved?
6. How is cyber-bullying different from other forms of bullying?
7. How is racist bullying different from other forms of bullying?
8. Do you have any stories you would like to share?

School Staff and Community Leaders

1. What do we see happening in this film? Who are the different people involved?
2. How might this incident harm the people involved? How about the school or classroom climate, especially for Aboriginal students?
3. Do you see much bullying in your classroom or at school? Are you aware of such incidents?
4. Do students approach you about bullying incidents? How do you handle these situations?
5. What could you do to help students feel comfortable getting help?
6. Have you addressed cyber-bullying specifically at your school? What are some of the unique challenges with cyber-bullying?
7. What are some of the unique consequences and challenges with racist bullying? Have you addressed racism and other forms of social injustice specifically at your school?
8. Are there any additional responses that might further support Aboriginal children and their needs?