

Support for a Child Who Has Witnessed Bullying

Toof goes to eat breakfast, looking troubled about having seen Fones bullying another student. When Knack asks what's wrong, Toof opens up and talks about it, discussing ideas for stepping in. Later, when Fones is bullying again, Toof steps in assertively and reaches out to include everyone in a game.

Narrated Message // *We all have a responsibility to watch out for each other. Seeing someone being bullied can be frightening and painful. Fear of becoming the next target or not knowing what to do might stop children from reaching out and helping someone else. Listening carefully to our children as they open up to us about their experiences, their fears and concerns can make a real difference. Encouraging our children to be kind and courageous allows them to stand up for others making a positive difference in their lives. When we look out for each other, we all become stronger together.*

IDEAS

- Children often don't know how to stop the bullying. They can feel upset and nervous after seeing it, and guilty for not being able to stop it.
- Children might not speak up for others for fear of being bullied. They may be scared to tell a parent or teacher about bullying, and afraid of being blamed.
- Providing safe and helpful places for children who have seen bullying to ask for help is all-important. Making sure that there are adults who are trained and available so that children can get help and speak out (at home, at school, in the community) is useful.
- Figuring the situation out together to help children come up with their own ideas to help will more likely make for positive results. Figuring out helpful ways with children to help them feel confident and able to stop bullying is part of this.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Family Members

1. What are some of the messages in this film?
2. What issues do you think might prevent students who have seen bullying from trying to step in to stop the bullying?
3. How can we encourage children to share a problem like this with us?
4. If our children tell us that they have witnessed bullying, how might we respond?
5. What kinds of questions can we ask children to help them think of ways to stand up for others?
6. What are some ways that might be useful for children to help stop the bullying?
7. How could teachers and your school community help support parents put these ideas into place?

School Staff and Community Leaders

1. What do you think prevents students who witness bullying from coming forward? How can the school address these challenges?
2. What ideas do you have about how you and your school can provide a safe place for children who witness bullying to come forward?
3. What kinds of questions can we ask to help students to reflect and think of ideas for supporting others being bullied?
4. How could you and your school support parents who approach you with concerns about their children witnessing bullying?
5. Are there any additional responses that might further support and meet the specific needs of Aboriginal children and family members?