

Tips for Confronting Bullying and Intolerance

Teachers can make a difference.

We can help students deal with bullying and intolerance and the consequences of such behaviors through guided experiences in reading, writing, and performing.

- We can announce to our students that bullying will not be tolerated in our classrooms, in the hallways, on the playgrounds, and on school premises.
- We can announce to our students that if anyone has a problem, especially related to bullying, he or she can talk with us after class or send us a note or an email about it.
- We can be helping witnesses to victims of bullying.
- We can immediately take action when bullying, name-calling, or harassment occurs in our presence, publicly identifying it for what it is and making it clear that we will not tolerate it.
- We can use literature, writing, and critical literacy to examine bullying issues in the curriculum.
- We can help students identify themselves as allies for victimized children.
- If students report bullying to us, we can make sure that the bullies are confronted and that the victims, bystanders, and allies feel protected.
- We can work with the other teachers in our school to protect all victims and bystanders from bullying, perhaps by creating a safe-school network.
- We can work within our school district to create safe schools where bullying is never ignored.

Adapted by the author from Henkin, Roxanne. 2005. *Confronting Bullying: Literacy as a Tool for Character Education*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. All rights reserved.