

BULLYING

has NO place in school



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The Canadian How-To People

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What makes a bully?

Bullying among young people is a serious concern; parents, schools, and the law are taking it more seriously than ever before. But even though we all condemn this kind of violence, it can be useful to try and understand where exactly it comes from.

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

First, the tolerance of aggression in our culture has a major influence on our children. Violence is often glorified, whether it is portrayed on television or in movies, music, or video games. It is not really viable to distance our children from the media and popular culture, but it is a wise parent who takes the time to explain that violence is never a good solution.

THE FAMILY CONTEXT

Children grow up learning from their parents, who are their role models. If parents practice discrimination or regularly express belittling sentiments about others, children will also adopt that kind of attitude and behaviour. The use of violence in child discipline also tends to instill such attitudes.

THE SCHOOL CONTEXT

Schools must establish a balance between clear and consistent discipline and warm and positive relationships, just like at home. Studies show that to reduce bullying at school, a clear policy on bullying should be established, and the consequences of this abhorrent behaviour enforced.

In Canada, the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention aims to help combat crime and victimization through bullying. Through various early intervention programs, the organization teaches young people to stand up to antisocial behaviour in order to create healthy environments for themselves. We should all advocate for this kind of policy so that bullying is never given the chance to take root. Bullying among young people is a serious concern; parents, schools, and the law are taking it more seriously than ever before. But even though we all condemn this kind of violence, it can be useful to try and understand where exactly it comes from.

