



# Imagine Newsletter

## A School Climate Approach to Bullying Prevention

### Information for Parents

Issue #11

#### Character Development

#### When You Take Action to Prevent Bullying, You Are Doing "Character Development"!

Schools are talking a lot about teaching children numbers (numeracy), reading and writing (literacy) and how to be a good person (character). When a person has "character", they know about and act on values like respect, caring and trust. Helping children build character is a job shared by all adults in a child's life, but parents have the most power to shape their children's character.

We must show children our values in action if we expect children to act on them. Parents and caregivers do things everyday to prevent bullying. These are some examples of things that help to grow good character in our children.

#### You show:

- **J**ustice  
When a child has messed up another child's stuff and you make the child clean it all up for that other child
- **C**aring  
When you ask children to treat others the way they would like to be treated, for example, by sharing their toys, saying "please" and "thank you" and saying "I'm sorry"
- **C**ompassion/Empathy  
When a child has hurt someone and you ask them to think about how the other person feels
- **I**nclusiveness  
When you accept people who are different from your family, play and work with them, and talk about how their differences can bring good things and new ideas
- **R**espect  
When you explain that no one is to be treated badly, even if that person is someone you don't like and you have the power to hurt them





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- **E**quity  
When you explain that everyone needs to get their needs met. For example, "We played at the big slides for you and I know you don't want to leave now but it's time to go home so the baby can have her nap"
- **R**esponsibility  
When you teach children about how they can help stop bullying when they see it

Schools are doing things to prevent bullying that also help to grow good character in our children.

- When staff stop a bullying situation, and help the student(s) to see what harm they have done and then help the students to find ways to get along better, they are showing **empathy, caring and justice**
- When a teacher tells a student he will call home to discuss the child's actions and he then calls the parents and they work together to help the child, they are showing **caring** and building **trust**
- When schools do things to help students feel like they belong at the school, they are showing **inclusiveness**. For example, they get books about all kinds of families and cultures; they have information for parents in different languages; they change activities so that every student can take part even if they have challenges.

One of the goals of the *Imagine* Project at your school is to create safer and more caring school communities. When we all work together to build character and prevent bullying, we will be creating safer and more caring communities for all of us to live in.

