

PRESENTS:

BULLYING PREVENTION **& AWARENESS** EVERYDAY CONFERENCE 2017

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL

A CONFERENCE TO EMPOWER EDUCATORS, PARENTS, AND Community Partners to Support Maligned & Bullied Youth, & to help put an end to Bullying

Bullying Prevention and Awareness 365 (BPA365), founded in December 2016, is a Chicago-based initiative, which involves adults in the fight against bullying in schools and the violence youth experience outside of the classroom. BPA365, in conjunction with Rivertree Educational Ministries, is hosting the Conference today at National Louis University.

Chicago educator and author Dorothy Thompson, who is coordinating the conference, says it would "create awareness on how to identify, address and intervene in bullying situations to promote student safety." Due to Dorothy Thompson's background and years of experience in education, she was able to reach out and garner the support of talented educators, industry professionals, and interested community leaders.

PLANNING PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Lorrie C. Reed Dorothy Thompson

Alice Robinson Antonette Parker Dr. Jessie Williams Dr. Maudestine McCleary Dr. Kay Ward-McDuffie Dr. Richadine Murray Min. Nicholas Thompson Natalie Thompson Natalie Thompson Pam Brunson-Allen Shanese Parker Sonia Towns-Jordan

BPA365 is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.



FOUNDER'S BIOGRAPHY

Mrs. Dorothy Thompson was born and raised on the Southside of Chicago. She attended Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and graduated with honors from Hyde Park High School. She started college immediately after graduating from high school, but her family obligations required her to wait four years before returning to college. Mrs. Thompson attended Kennedy King College for a year and a half, and she transferred to Chicago State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education. She later earned her master's degree in general administration and received a Type 75 administrative certificate while pursuing studies at Chicago State and Governor's State Universities.

Dorothy worked in CPS as a teacher, business manager, assistant principal, area administrator, and principal. She retired from CPS in 2012 after completing 25 years of service. She began her doctoral studies at National Louis University in educational leadership in 2015. Bullying is of major concern to her. Ms. Thompson states, "I am very aware of the evil effects of bullying first-hand. It is extremely high now, especially among youths and this leads to violence. Almost every conflict you hear now of involves some amount or form of bullying,"

While doing her research and writing her dissertation, she reflected on the interaction of adults, and students bullying behavior in schools. With the help of community members – ministers, community activists, parents, current and retired educators and business professionals -- Dorothy planned the conference over a one year period. The theme of the Chicago Conference, "The Collective Roles of Adults in Bullying Prevention and Students' Well-Being" was coined to outline how adults can work together to help keep students safe. The conference provides the perfect venue for adults working in various fields and parents to receive information and work together.

Dorothy Thompson remains active in her role as an ordained minister with the Africa Resurrection and Restorations Ministries. And, she is the author of "What to Do When You Believe in Something..." She is married, the mother of six children and five grandchildren, and traveling is one of her favorite hobbies.



BULLYING PREVENTION & AWARENESS CONFERENCE - 2017 P.O. BOX 438305 * CHICAGO, IL. 60643 * 872-395-3588

8:00 – 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:55 A.M. OPENING PROGRAM WELCOME – NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY DANIELLE LABAN, DR. HARRINGTON GIBSON, & DR. CARLOS AZCOITIA INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER – DR. LEOTIS SWOPES INSPIRATION FOR BPA365 – DOROTHY THOMPSON GLOBAL GIRLS SKIT HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS – DR. KAY WARD-MCDUFFIE

10:00 - 11:30 A.M. **SESSION 1**

ROOMS

5003 "BULLYING, THE STORY BEHIND THE HEADLINES" MARVINETTA WOODLEY-PENN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL GIRLS, INC. FOUNDED IN 2000 – SERVING YOUTH AGES 5 – 18.

5005 "THE SHIFT FROM A PUNITIVE TO A RESTORATIVE MINDSET: SOCIAL

5015 "BLACK GIRL BLUES: AN EXAMINATION OF INTRA RACIAL BULLYING AND ALTERNATIVES TO SUSPENSION"

CAROLYN STRONG, DEAN OF STUDENTS AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL (DOCTORAL CANDIDATE NLU)

5016 **"THE AFTERMATH OF BULLYING: LONG-TERM EFFECTS IN ADULTHOOD"** MARY E. CAREY, PH.D., APRN THERAPIST AND CLINICAL SPECIALIST, NEUROPSYCHIATRIC CENTER, OKLAHOMA

5019 'BEYOND "DON'T DO IT": CYBERBULLYING' CHRISTINE FELLER, ILLINOIS STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

5021 **"THE POWER OF STORYTELLING: A JOURNEY NOT SHARED IS A SOUL NOT HEALED"** SHAN JONES, PH.D.

11:30 A.M. - 12:25 P.M. LUNCH

12:35 - 1:55 P.M. P.M. - **SESSION 2**

ROOMS

5003 "TRANSFORMING MIDDLE SCHOOLS"

LORRIE C. REED, PH.D., FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CENTER STREET CONSULTING

5005 "THE SHIFT FROM A PUNITIVE TO A RESTORATIVE MINDSET: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING"

TAMMYE MATTHEWS, ND

5016 **"THE AFTERMATH OF BULLYING: LONG-TERM EFFECTS IN ADULTHOOD"** MARY CAREY, PHD, ADRN THERAPIST AND CLINICAL SPECIALIST, NEUROPSYCHIATRIC CENTER, OKLAHOMA

5019 **"BEYOND 'DON'T DO IT": CYBERBULLYING"** CHRISTINE FELLER, ILLINOIS STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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2:05 - 3:00 P.M. PANEL DISCUSSION (ATRIUM)

PANEL DISCUSSION

CHRISTINA L. KOLSKI, LCSW TIER II/III SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING SPECIALIST CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NICKI B. BAZER PARTNER, EDUCATION LAW PRACTICE GROUP AT FRANCZEK RADELET, PC

FINAL REMARKS

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY DANIELLE LABAN, DR. HARRINGTON GIBSON, & DR. CARLOS AZCOITIA

DR. LORRIE REED - GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3:00 – 4:00 P.M. NETWORKING (ATRIUM), VENDORS 4:00 P.M. CHECK-OUT - EVALUATION-CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

PRESENTERS



Mary E. Carey, Ph.D., APRN, is Vice-President of the Juanita Fields Foundation and Senior Consultant for Allen Carey Associates LLC. She has been a professional consultant and therapist for over 15 years with a focus on adult mental health and psychiatry. Dr. Carey holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and is a Professor Emeritus from the University Of Oklahoma College of Nursing. Professional memberships include Phi Kappa Phi and the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress.

Christine Feller is a Cyber Crime Specialist within the High Tech Crime Bureau of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. In her position, she assesses and disseminates CyberTipline leads received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to affiliate Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) agencies throughout the state. She also educates and empowers children, parents and community members on their role as digital citizens. She discusses the topics of exploitation, cyberbullying, sexting, and piracy in relation to technologies used by children. Annually, she provides over 250 presentations and others nationally on behalf of ICAC. Ms. Feller received an M.A. in Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Computer Fraud Investigations, from George Washington University, and a B.A. in Economics from Saint Mary's College.





Shan Jones, Ph.D., completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Governor State University (GSU). She studied the philosophy of Restorative Justice under the leadership of her mentor and professor. Restorative Justice became a way of life for her as she was able to apply theory to practice in her own personal affairs. She was recognized as a student leader on campus by modeling the way and encouraging the heart. Dr. Jones completed her doctoral degree in Interdisciplinary Leadership with a specialization in higher education, May 2016. She has become an active restorative and social justice advocate within higher education. Her passion for Restorative Justice has afforded her the opportunity to speak and present across the Chicagoland area on the proactive and reactive approaches regarding restorative practices.

PRESENTERS



Tammye Mathews, ND is the Founder and CEO of Restored by Tammye Inc. She is a native of the South Suburbs of Chicago. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology/Pre-medicine from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana and received her certifications in the following areas: Holistic Health Consultant, Life Coach, Entrepreneur, Akashic Record Reading, Sankofa Rites of Passage for Women, Medical Representative, and Pharmaceutical Management. Dr. Matthews has studied Alleopathic Medicine for over 15 years. She studied Naturopathic Medicine for ten of those years. She teaches Detoxification of the Mind, Body, & Spirit Classes; as well as, assists clients in their transition to a healthier lifestyle as a Certified Life Coach.

Marvinetta Woodley-Penn, Founder and Executive Director Global Girls, Inc. Founded in 2000, Global Girls, Inc. is a nonprofit organization based on the south side of Chicago providing arts education and presentation opportunities for youth ages 5 to 18. Through rigorous theatre and dance training, participants develop essential life skills including self-awareness, resilience, tenacity, and grit – skills which help them succeed on stage and in life. They also investigate their issues and turn findings into "sociallyconscious, youth-driven theatre." Global Girls' mission is to equip girls of color with skills that nurture their individual growth and inspire them to use their talents for positive change in their communities and beyond. The community theatre group, Global Girls Theatre Collaborative (GTC), creates and stages original theatre that unpacks, challenges and heals. Springing from firstperson narratives, their shows confront many current issues.



Lorrie C. Reed, Ph.D is a semi-retired educator whose professional experiences include service as a secondary school teacher, high school associate principal, middle school principal, curriculum director, university professor, and consultant. Dr. Reed is the author of several books and holds a Ph.D. in Research Methodology, a Master's degree in Educational Administration, a Master's degree in Theological Studies, a Master of Divinity degree, and a Bachelor's degree in English education. Her writing and research highlight holistic, educational, social, and community mechanisms for reinforcing justice and intergenerational hope, healing, and resilience among all people. She specializes in organizational transformation.





Carolyn Strong is a motivational educator with an anti-bullying message of hope for children, families, and schools, and the author of "Black Girl Blues." Carolyn Strong is an educator with more than 10 years of experience working with inner-city youth; she is currently Dean of Students in a high school serving more than 2,100 young people. In this role as disciplinarian, she witnesses and confronts bullying and relational aggression daily by creating and implementing prevention programs in conjunction with traditional discipline.

PANELISTS

Nicki B. Bazer, Partner in the Education Law Practice Group, Franczek Radelet P.C.

Nicki Bazer focuses her legal practice on policy and governance issues, student privacy rights, teacher evaluation, teacher misconduct issues, educator licensure compliance, general public school compliance, as well as charter schools. As former general counsel at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), she provides valuable insight and counsel to school districts on the regulations and reform initiatives endorsed by ISBE. Bazer regularly represents clients in both state and federal court, in administrative hearings on teacher matters, and before the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

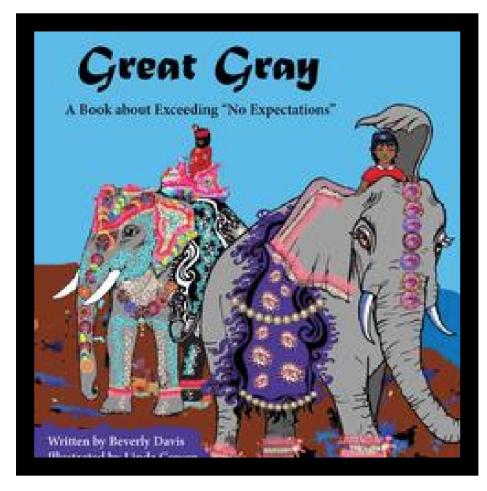
Bazer is a frequent speaker on school law matters, specifically on student data security and privacy and teacher performance and evaluation. Bazer has made presentations for the Illinois Council of School Attorneys, the Illinois Association of Administrators of Special Education, the Illinois Association of School Boards and Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators. While at ISBE, she provided legal advice and support to districts under direct state oversight. She facilitated state-wide working groups on data security as it relates to student privacy, as well as the state school funding formula. As ISBE's General Counsel, Bazer oversaw the legislative agenda of the agency, including drafting legislation, working with education stakeholders and testifying before the Illinois General Assembly.

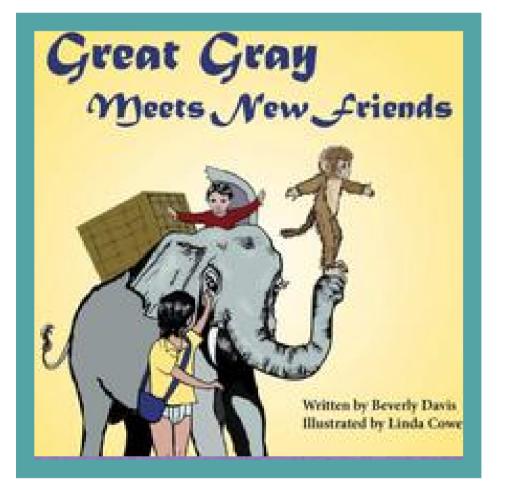


CHRISTINA L. KOLSKI TIER II/III SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING SPECIALIST CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Christina Kolski is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Tier II/III Social & Emotional Learning Specialist with Chicago Public Schools Office of Social & Emotional Learning. Her role allows her to support the district's efforts on trauma education and the implementation of trauma-specific interventions for youth. She also provides professional development and supported implementation for school Behavior Health Teams. School Behavior Health Teams provide supports and services to students with targeted needs within the classroom and school including aggression management, social skills acquisition, and trauma supports. Kolski is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work.



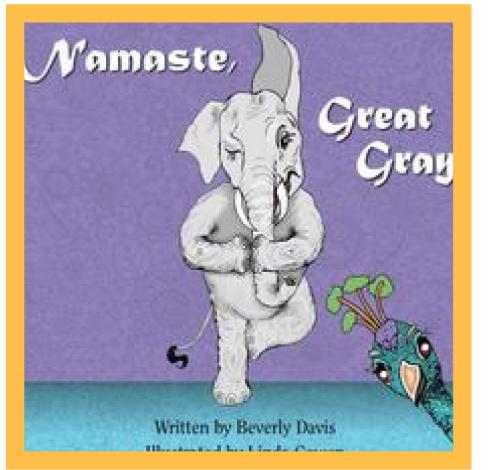




BEVERLY DAVIS | AUTHOR AND CREATOR OF GREAT GREY BOOK SERIES

Bev Davis is an avid "observer of life." After a long career as an interior designer, she followed her call into ministry by attending McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago. After receiving a master of divinity degree, she took a "leap of faith," leaving the South Side of Chicago, to pastor a small UCC church in north central Wisconsin. She is happy to be living in Milwaukee with her husband, Steve, serving as a hospice chaplain and recently began exhibiting her photography in local galleries.

When Bev is asked what kind of books she writes? She replies, "Children's Books for all ages." Namaste, Great Gray, is the third book about the life of Great Gray, a little Indian elephant, that exceeds "NO" expectations and the effect he has on everyone he meets. Bev hopes this book would help your child-and you realize the possibilities each of your lives hold. Great Gray Series, three Childrens' Books, is appropriate for all ages. There was much excitement in the village of Anapur. Elephants Saguna and Prabir were expecting a little one---a perfect calf. The parents dreamed often of their perfect baby and all the perfect things he would do. But when the baby was born...he was a little less than perfect. Follow young Gray on his journeys from "not quite right" to becoming Great Gray, a village hero. Rev. Bev Davis is an avid "observer of life." Bev experienced bullying in the extreme, which affected her life greatly. She had a dream that her special books would help every child and adult see the possibilities each of their lives hold.



Our other vendors: Center Street Consulting, Phi Delta Kappa International -Chicago State University Chapter, ART-R Open Hand Ministries

BULLYING PREVENTION FACTS

Fact #1: Bullies come in all shapes and sizes.

It is a mistake to assume that all bullies are loners or have low self-esteem. In fact, there are at least six common types of bullies. While some bullies do suffer from self-esteem issues, there are others who bully because they feel entitled. In fact, many bullies are popular kids who want to rule the school. Meanwhile, other kids bully because they too have been victims of bullying and others bully in an attempt to climb the social ladder. Some kids even bully due to peer pressure. Bullying involves having power over someone. As a result, many kids who bully crave power. In other words, the bully is looking to improve his status. Meanwhile, other kids participate in bullying because they view it as an effective method for controlling and manipulating the social hierarchy at school.

Fact #2: Anyone can become a victim of bullying.

While there are certain characteristics that often lead bullies to target someone, it's a mistake to assume there is one type of target. In fact, even the most popular kids at school can be victims of bullying. It's important to remember that kids are bullied because the bully made a choice to target them. As a result, it's wrong to assume that some kids are bullied because they have a victim personality. When this idea is embraced, it removes the blame from the bully and places it on the victim. The responsibility for bullying always falls on the bullies. They are the only ones with a choice in the matter. Likewise, labeling kids who are bullied lets the bully off the hook and implies the victim deserves to be victimized.

Fact #3: Bullying can happen at any age.

While bullying often starts in late elementary school and peaks in middle school, it's important to point out that bullying can start as young as preschool. While the majority of school bullying takes place in middle school, some bullying carries over into adulthood. In fact, workplace bullying is a growing problem. It really doesn't matter what age a person is, bullies focus on anyone who doesn't fit the accepted norm and focus on that. They also will bully others they feel threatened by or those that have something they want. People also are bullied because they look, act, talk or dress differently.

Source: "8 Facts About Bullying Everyone Should Know" by Sherri Gordon, published May 02, 2017 on VeryWell.com.



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Fact #4: There are six types of bullying.

When most people picture bullying, they imagine a group of boys punching and kicking another boy. But physical bullying is only type of bullying. There are in fact six different types of bullying including physical bullying, verbal bullying, relational aggression, cyberbullying, prejudicial bullying and sexual bullying. Knowing how to spot all types of bullying, helps parents and educators respond more effectively to bullying situations. For instance, be sure you can recognize relational aggression and cyberbullying, just as easily as you can spot physical bullying.

Fact #5: Boys and girls bully differently.

When it comes to bullying, boys and girls tend to bully differently. For instance female bullies tend to be "mean girls" who use relational aggression and cyberbullying to control and manipulate situations. Girls also resort to more name-calling and tend to bully only other girls. Boys, on the other hand, tend to be more physically aggressive. This is not to say that they don't call others names and cyberbully, but when it comes down to it, boys tend to punch and hit much more than female bullies.

Additionally, male bullies will bully both girls and boys. They also are impulsive, menacing and enjoy the status they get from a fight.

Fact #6: Those victimized by bullying often don't report it.

Despite the number of negative emotions and consequences of bullying, many targets of bullying do not tell anyone what is happening. The reasons for remaining silent vary from person to person. But for some tweens and teens, they are embarrassed, confused or feel they can handle it on their own. A number of young people also question whether or not telling will do any good. Unfortunately, some adults and school systems have established a pattern of not addressing bullying and young people feel that telling adults will not do any good.

Fact #7: Usually there are witnesses to bullying.

Frequently, when bullying occurs, other kids are present. Yet, the common reaction for these bystanders is to simply stand by and do nothing. For this reason, bullying prevention efforts should include ideas on how to empower bystanders to take action. Included in those programs should be ideas on what bystanders can do if they witness bullying. Many times, kids remain silent because they are unsure what they should do or they feel it is none of their business. But the goal in bullying prevention is to capitalize on the audience a bully has and turn it toward helping the victim rather than silently supporting bullies.

Fact #8: Bullying has significant consequences.

Being targeted by a bully can have significant consequences. In fact, many victims feel alone, isolated and humiliated. And if bullying is left unaddressed a number of other issues can crop up including depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and even thoughts of suicide. For this reason, it is important that parents and teachers realize that bullying is not a rite of passage and it won't make victims stronger. Instead it has lasting consequences and should be dealt with swiftly and effectively.

Source: "8 Facts About Bullying Everyone Should Know" by Sherri Gordon, published May 02, 2017 on VeryWell.com.

THE SIX TYPES OF BULLYING

When most people think of bullying, they imagine boys punching, kicking and hitting one another. But, physical bullying is just one type of bullying that kids participate in. There are actually six primary types of bullying. Here is an overview of the six most common types of bullying found in schools.

Physical Bullying

Physical bullying is the most obvious form of bullying. It occurs when kids use physical actions to gain power and control over their targets. Physical bullies tend to be bigger, stronger and more aggressive than their peers. Examples of physical bullying include kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, shoving and other physical attacks.

Unlike other forms of bullying, physical bullying is the easiest to identify. As a result, it is most likely what people think of when they think of bullying. Additionally, it has historically received more attention from schools than other more subtle forms of bullying.

Verbal Bullying

Perpetrators of verbal bullying use words, statements, and name-calling to gain power and control over a target. Typically, verbal bullies will use relentless insults to belittle, demean and hurt another person. They choose their targets based on the way they look, act or behave. It's also common for verbal bullies to target kids with special needs.

Verbal bullying is often very difficult to identify because attacks almost always occur when adults aren't around. As a result, it is often one person's word against another person's word. Additionally, many adults feel that things kids say don't impact others significantly. As a result, they usually tell the victim of bullying to "ignore it." But research has shown that verbal bullying and name-calling has serious consequences. In fact, it can leave deep emotional scars.

Relational Aggression

Relational aggression is a sneaky and insidious type of bullying that often goes unnoticed by parents and teachers. Sometimes referred to as emotional bullying, relational aggression is a type of social manipulation where tweens and teens try to hurt their peers or sabotage their social standing. Relational bullies often ostracize others from a group, spread rumors, manipulate situations and break confidences. The goal behind a relationally aggressive bully is to increase their own social standing by controlling or bullying another person.

In general, girls tend to use relational aggression more than boys, especially between fifth and eighth grades. As a result, girls who engage in relational aggression are often called mean girls or frenemies.

A teen or tween on the receiving end of relational aggression is likely to be teased, insulted, ignored, excluded and intimidated. Although relational aggression is common in middle school, it is not limited to tweens. In fact, some bullying bosses and other workplace bullies also engage in relational aggression.

Source: "6 Types of Bullying Parents Should Know About" by Sherri Gordon, published July 02, 2017 on VeryWell.com.



Cyberbullying

When a tween or a teen uses the Internet, a cell phone or other technology to harass, threaten, embarrass or target another person, this is called cyberbullying. If an adult is involved in the harassment this is called cyber-harassment or cyberstalking.

Examples of cyberbullying include posting hurtful images, making online threats, and sending hurtful emails or texts. Because teens and tweens are always "plugged in," cyberbullying is a growing issue among young people. It's also becoming more widespread because bullies can harass their targets with much less risk of being caught.

Cyberbullies often say things that they do not have the courage to say face-to-face because technology makes them feel anonymous, insulated and detached from the situation. Consequently, online bullying is often mean and cruel. To the targets of cyberbullying, it feels invasive and never-ending. Bullies can get to them anytime and anywhere, often in the safety of their own home. As a result, the consequences of cyberbullying are significant.

Sexual Bullying

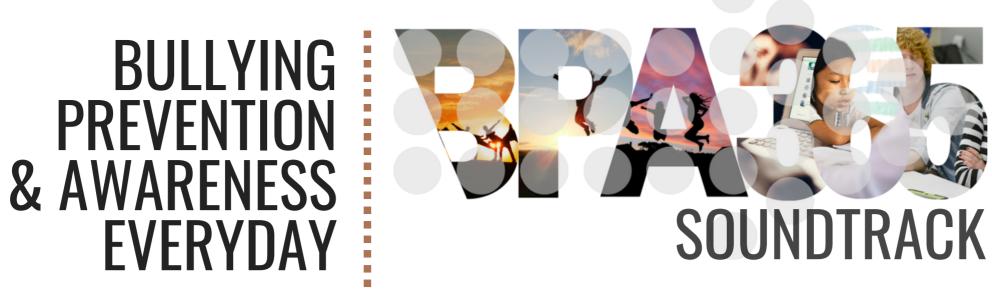
Sexual bullying consists of repeated, harmful and humiliating actions that target a person sexually. Examples include sexual name-calling, crude comments, vulgar gestures, uninvited touching, sexual propositioning and pornographic materials. For instance, a bully might make a crude comment about a girl's appearance, attractiveness, sexual development or sexual activity. In extreme cases, sexual bullying opens the door to sexual assault. Girls are often the targets of sexual bullying both by boys and by other girls. Boys might touch them inappropriately, make crude comments about their bodies or proposition them. Girls, on the other hand, might call other girls names like "slut" or "tramp," make insulting comments about their appearance or body and engage in slut-shaming.

Sexting also can lead to sexual bullying. For instance, a girl may send a photo of herself to a boyfriend. When they break up, he shares that photo with the entire school. As a result, she then becomes the target of sexual bullying because people make fun of her body, call her crude names and make vulgar comments about her. Some boys may even see this as an open invitation to proposition her or assault her.

Prejudicial Bullying

Prejudicial bullying is based on prejudices tweens and teens have toward people of different races, religions or sexual orientation. This type of bullying can encompass all the other types of bullying as well including cyber bullying, verbal bullying, relational bullying, physical bullying and sometimes even sexual bullying.

When prejudicial bullying occurs, kids are targeting others who are different from them and singling them out. Often times, this type of bullying is severe and can open the door to hate crimes. Any time a child is bullied for his race, religion or sexual orientation, it should be reported.



Mix and match songs that best fit your classrooms, offices, and children support environments. Find songs that empower, promote happiness, motivates, instills confidence, and highlights self-satisfaction.

- **Brave- Sara Bareilles** 1.
- 2. The Climb – Miley Cyrus
- 3. Confident – Demi Lovato
- Do My Thing Estelle Ft. Janelle Monae 4.
- 5. Don't Worry, Be Happy – Bobby McFerrin
- New Soul Yael Naim 6.
- Listen Beyonce 7.
- 8. Fighter – Christina Aguilera
- 9. Good Feeling – FloRida
- Happy Pharrell Williams 10.
- Keep Ya Head Up 2PAC 11.
- Scars to Your Beautiful Alessia Cara 12.
- 13. Unchartered Sara Bareilles
- 14. Tight Rope Janelle Mona ft. Big Boi
- 15. Stronger Kelly Clarkson
- Unbreakable Tori Kelly 16.
- 17. The World is Yours Nas
- 18. Maid with Flaxen Hair (Instrumental) Richard Stoltzman
- 19. You Gotta Be Des'ree

NOTES SECTION







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17



BULLYING PREVENTION & AWARENESS EVERYDAY BULLYING SPONSORSHIP



National Louis University is one of the oldest and most progressive universities in Chicago. NLU offers more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs through two colleges: the National College of Education and the College of Professional Studies and Advancement.

OUNORTH ISLAND Catering

North Island Catering was established in 1986, we have built our business throughout the years using family recipes as well as the culinary skills of their chefs. For two decades, North Island Catering has catered thousands of events.

MICHAEL KELLER

Michael Shawn Keller, author of "<u>Bullies Among Us</u>," is a Connecticut-born, anti-bullying advocate with five brothers and two sisters. The non-fiction author began his research as a way to solve bullying issues in his own life. This slowly morphed into an informative and much-needed book, which promises to uplift anyone struggling with bullying. He has also authored two other books.



Akwaaba Akwele Travels is a one-stop travel agency, offering impeccably researched information on domestic and international travel, whether one is traveling for business or for pleasure. Natalie Thompson of Akwaaba Akwele Travels has flown, driven, and jet setted quite a bit herself and can offer first-hand tips on hotspots, attractions, and nightlife.



BrandYourself is a US-based online reputation management company. It provides software and services to help businesses and individuals out-rank negative search results with their own content and websites.

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16.

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