

STANDING TOGETHER!



Bullying prevention and support for students with neurodivergence

40%

of elementary students are bullied, and it happens to those with special needs and other neurodiversity 2-4 times more.

Most stay silent

They're often either afraid, they don't think adults will understand, they feel like they need to handle it themselves, or they don't know how to ask for help.

We can change this

By working together, we can teach children the skills they need and build a community where everyone belongs.

What Helps Us Grow?

Tools for stopping bullying and including everyone

CHALLENGES		SUPPORTS
Feeling alone Being seen as different	Individual	Feeling loved and having friends Good social skills
Seeing a lot of meanness Not having a calm home	Peers and Family	Kind friends A safe, loving home
Unfair school rules Feeling unsafe	School and Community	Caring adults and clear routines Safe and inclusive classroom

*Every child can face challenges.
Our job is to give them the tools they need.*

STANDING TOGETHER!

DESIGN FOR INCLUSION

Why It Matters - A safe, predictable environment prevents problems before they start.

- | Co-create clear, simple rules with the students.
- | Make unstructured time engaging for all. Teach playground games, assign zones for aides, and rotate leadership on group activities (buddy bench, art table, organized games) so every child can join and no one feels left out.
- | Use inclusive language that celebrates all abilities and communication styles.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, NOT JUST RULES

Why It Matters - Children feel safe when they know the adults around them truly care.

- | Greet every child by name. Notice and affirm small acts of kindness or courage.
- | Be curious. If a child is struggling, ask "What's happening?" and listen to understand, not just to correct.
- | Communicate with families to learn about a child's strengths, interests, and routines. This partnership builds trust.

INTERVENE EARLY AND EFFECTIVELY

Why It Matters - Quick, calm action stops bullying from escalating.

- | The whole community works together to spot the signs of bullying, especially during unstructured times like recess and lunch.
- | Bullying is not "kids being kids." Separate the children involved, ensure safety first, then follow up with each child to understand and address the root cause of the behavior.
- | Never force a child to "work it out" with the child who bullied them. This is not a conflict; it's a power imbalance.

Formal supports provide a clearly understood safety net for vulnerable students.

**YOU CREATE THE WORLD CHILDREN LIVE IN AT SCHOOL.
BUILD A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY CHILD KNOWS THEY BELONG!**