Bully Prevention: Promoting Healthy Behaviors & Positive School Climate



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University of Illinois - Research Program

- SOCIAL-ECOLOGY & SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION (Espelage & Swearer, 2003; Espelage, 2012, in press)
- EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE STUDY (Espelage, 1998; Low & Espelage, in press)
- SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS STUDY (Birkettt & Espelage, in press; Espelage, Holt, & Henkel, 2003; Espelage Green, & Wasserman, 2007; Espelage, Green, & Polanin, 2012)
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DATING VIOLENCE, & BULLYING STUDIES (Holt & Espelage, 2003; Holt & Espelage, 2005; Espelage & Holt, 2006; Espelage, Basile, & Hambuger, 2012)
- THEORY OF MIND, EMPATHY, & PEER RELATIONS (Espelage et al., 2004; Mayberry & Espelage, 2006
- SEXUAL VIOLENCE, & BULLYING (Poteat & Espelage, 2006; Espelage et al., 2008; Espelage et al., 2012)
- YOUTH & MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES (Espelage, Aragon, Birkett, & Koenig, 2008; Poteat, Espelage, & Koenig,
 2009; Birkett, Espelage, & Koenig, 2009; Robinson & Espelage, 2012, 2013)
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES Victimization & Psychological Correlates & SEL prevention (Rose et al., 2010; Rose & Espelare, 2012; Rose, Polanin, & Espelare, in press)
- SCHOOL CLIMATE, ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT (Espelage et al., in press)

Espelage Mantra: With Awareness Comes Misperception

Misperception in Media Bullying is an epidemic. Bully-suicide linked. Bully are young criminals. Bullies need to be punished. Bullies – dysfunctional families

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Scientific Evidence Bully Rates Have Not Changed Bully Only One of Many Predictors Bullies are diverse in their outcomes Ignores Group Phenomena Good kids get involved in bullying

Abandon Word – Bullying?

- May 1, 2013: Dorothy Espelage cited in USA TODAY: "Stop using the word 'bullying' in school"
- Bullying:

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- Victimization
- Aggression
- Mean/Cruel Behavior
- Disrespect
- Sexual Harassment
- Racism
- Violence

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Meta-Analyses & Systematic Reviews: Bully Prevention & Intervention

- Six meta-analytic studies published in peer-review publications that have focused on the efficacy of school-based bully prevention programs (Baldry & Farrington, 2007; Ferguson, San Miguel, Kilburn, & Sanchez, 2007; Merrell, Gueldner, Ross, & Isava, 2008; Polanin, Espelage, & Pigott, 2012; Ttofi & Farrington, 2011; Yeager, Fong, Lee, & Espelage, revise & resubmit)
- **Two** systematic reviews with no meta-analytic statistics (Smith, Schneider, Smith & Ananiadou, 2004; Vreeman & Carroll, 2007).
- These studies indicate that the efficacy of school bullying prevention programs have varied across countries and contexts (Espelage, 2012; Ttofi & Farrington, 2011).

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Merrell et al., 2008 School Psychology Review

- Evaluated effectiveness of 16 bullying efficacy studies across some six countries (six studies in US; two published; Merrell, 2008).
- All showed small to negligible effects.
- Small positive effects found for enhancing social competence and peer acceptance, and increasing teacher knowledge and efficacy in implementing interventions.
- Reality—No impact on bullying behaviors.

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Ttofi & Farrington, 2011 Journal of Experimental Criminology

- Most comprehensive meta-analysis that applied the Campbell Systematic Review procedures.
- Reviewed 44 rigorous program evaluations and randomized clinical trials (RCT) (Ttofi & Farrington, 2011).
- Almost 2/3 of the studies were conducted outside of the US or Canada.
- 1/3 of the programs were based on the Olweus Bully Prevention Program (Olweus, 1999).
- Found that the programs, on average, were associated with a 20% 23% decrease in bullying perpetration, and a 17% – 20% decrease in victimization.
- However, smaller effect sizes were found for RCT designs in comparison to non-RCT designs.

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Ttofi & Farrington, 2011 Journal of Experimental Criminology

- Decreases in rates of victimization were associated with the following special program elements:
 - disciplinary methodsparent training/meetings
 - parent training/meetin
 use of videos,
 - cooperative group work
 - greater duration and intensity of the program
- However, work with peers (e.g., peer mediation) was associated with an increase in victimization
- This iatrogenic finding is not new. Scholars have argued for a decade that peer mediation is contraindicated for bully prevention (Espelage & Swearer, 2003).

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Ttofi & Farrington, 2011 Journal of Experimental Criminology

- Decreases in rates of *bully perpetration* for programs that included:
 - parent training/meetings
 - improved playground supervision
 - disciplinary methods
 classroom management
 - classroom manageme
 - teacher training
 - classroom rules
 - whole-school anti-bullying policy
 - cooperative group work
 - greater number of elements and the duration
- Programs less effective in the US and in Canada
- Of note, programs inspired by the work of Dan Olweus (1993) had the highest effect sizes

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- Goal 2: Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
 - Recognize the feelings and perspectives of others.

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- Recognize individual and group similarities and differences.
- Use communication and social skills to interact effectively with others.
- Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways.



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- SEL focuses on the systematic development of a core set of social and emotional skills that help youth more effectively handle life challenges, make better decisions, and thrive in both their learning and their social environments through a climate that supports the practicing of skills.
- A meta-analysis of 213 programs found that if a school implements a quality SEL curriculum, they can expect better student behavior and an 11 point increase in test scores (Durlak, Weissberg, Dymnicki, Taylor, & Schellinger, 2010).

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Teacher/Staff perceptions of school culture: Links to student reports of bullying, victimization, aggression, & willingness to intervene





School Environment Survey

 35 of 36 schools returned surveys; 1 school only submitted 2; thus, data on 34 were included in school-level baseline data.

- 1428 responses were complete; School M = 21.57 (SD = 10.31)
- 66% teachers, 10% support staff, 9% paraprofessionals, 3% counselors, 4% administrators, 2% custodial staff, 1 bus driver, 1 cafeteria worker, 6 student teachers
- 74% females

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- 75% white, 8% hispanic, 10% black, 4% other
- Age range from 20-29 years (16%) through over 55 years (15%);
 M = 40 to 44 years of age
- Teaching at current school 1st year (13%) through 10> years (18%); *M* = 3 to 5 years

School Environment Scale Six scales emerged from factor analyses, measuring

- teacher/staff PERCEPTIONS OF:
 - Student intervention (5 items; α = .83)
 - Staff intervention (5 items; α = .89)

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- Aggression being a problem (5 items; α = .80)
 School is doing professional development /adminstrator
- School is doing protessional development /administrator support (8 items; $\alpha = .90$)
- Positive school climate overall (7 items; α = .85)

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Variable	Bullying Perpetration		Peer Victimization		Physical Aggression		Willingness to Intervene	
	β (SE)	В	β (SE)	В	β (SE)	в	β (SE)	В
Intercept	.39 (.03)**		.96 (.04)**		.96 (.05)**		2.03 (.04)**	-
Individual								
Female	03 (.02)	03	05 (.03)	05	20 (.03)**	21	.14 (.02)**	.14
Mother's Education	.01 (.01)	.01	.01 (.03)	.03	01 (.01)	03	.02 (.01)**	.08
White	.17 (.02)**	15	.11 (.05)*	.10	51 (.05)**	47	.18 (.03)**	.17
Hispanic	17 (.02)**	17	23 (.05)**	23	47 (.05)**	46	.09 (.03)**	.09
Asian	22 (.04)**	07	13 (.07)	04	64 (.06)**	21	.19 (.05)**	.06
Bi-racial	.11 (.03)**	08	01 (.08)	01	29 (.05)**	2	.12 (.03)**	.08
School-level								
Student Intervention	.15 (.14)	.04	03 (.18)	01	.19 (.20)	.05	07 (.10)	02
Staff Intervention	.15 (.10)	.04	.30 (.22)	.07	.02 (.19)	.01	02 (.11)	01
Aggression Problem	07 (.08)	04	14 (.12)	08	.09 (.12)	.05	18 (.06)**	10
School Commitment to Bully Prevention	20 (.06)**	13	42 (.09)**	27	17 (.08)*	11	.08 (.05)	.05
Positive Teacher-Staff- Student Interactions	01 (.11)	.01	.14 (.16)	.04	23 (.21)	07	13 (.08)	.02
Gender equity/intolerance of sexual harassment	23 (.10)*	08	71 (.20)**	24	13 (.14)	05	13 (.08)	05
State	.05 (.05)	.05	04 (.03)	04	.05 (.07)	.05	.03 (.04)	.03
Free/Reduced Lunch	.01 (.01)	.05	01 (.01)*	14	.01 (.02)*	.26	01 (.01)*	12
% Female	66 (.29)*	07	71 (.32)*	08	45 (.42)	05	.17 (.25)	.02
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	B (SE)	В	B (SE)	В	β (SE)	в	B (SE)	В
Intercept	.39 (.03)**	-	.96 (.04)**		.96 (.05)**		2.03 (.04)**	
Individual								
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Conclusions

• Prevention programs yield reductions in bullying and victimization, and gender-based aggression.

• Effects are strongest among elementary school children & diminish has youth mature.

· Perceptions of staff matter

• Programs that target individual vs. environment factors might have differential impact on a wide range of outcomes.

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Realistic Strategies

- Simple strategies can help to decrease bullying
 - Use data to make decisions (i.e., Increase hallway monitors; reduce time between classes)
 - Involve PE teachers and coaches in stopping bullying behaviors
- With your support, students can play an important role in decreasing bullying
 - Implement a procedure to allow students to confidentially repot bullying incidents
 - Create a confidential reporting system
 - (www.bullytracker.com)
 - Have an open door policy with counselors to address the needs of students involved in bullying

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Realistic Strategies Make sure your school has an anti-bullying policy that is consistent with state and federal policies Make sure the adult workplace models healthy social relationships

- · Work respectfully and collaboratively with families
- Use videos and classroom discussion guides to talk about the detrimental effects of bullying
- Use social-emotional learning activities to create a positive school climate
- Use a positive behavioral interventions and supports to respond effectively to student behaviors

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Dorothy L. Espelage, Ph.D.

Resources

http://www.stopbullying.gov/ Newly launched government site, always changing, tips for surveys, and resources that are promising will eventually be added. Bookmark this site.

http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/ Videos for kids; games

http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/promos/stopbullying/index.html Cartoon Network Stop Bullying-Speak Up Campaign

http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/promos/stopbullying/video/index.html Students talk about speaking up video (25 minutes)

http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/topics/bullying Sesame Street Efforts (16 minute video)

http://www.pacer.org/bullying/ Wide range of resources

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http://www.stopbullying.gov/ Newly launched government site, always changing, tips for surveys, and resources that are promising will eventually be added. Bookmark this site. http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library.php Meta-analyses of a wide range of topics http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/ Mational registry of effective programs for aggression, AOD, bullying, etc. http://casel.org/ Clearinghouse for Social-Emotional Learning Prevention etc. http://www.schoolclimate.org/ Evidence-based School Climate Site

Interactive Resources

http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/ Videos for kids; games

http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/promos/stopbullying/index.html Cartoon Network Stop Bullying-Speak Up Campaign

http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/promos/stopbullying/video/index.ht ml

Students talk about speaking up video (25 minutes)

http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/topics/bullying

Sesame Street Efforts (16 minute video)

http://www.pacer.org/bullying/ Wide range of resources

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Resources

http://www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org/#/home Teens against bullying

http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/ Kids against bullying

http://www.facebook.com/safety/ Facebook Safety Tips

://www.characterplus.org Character Education site

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http://www.storiesofus.com/ Stories of Us Videos and Curriculum

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Evidence-Based Resources http://www.evidencebasedprograms.org/static/pdfs/GBG%20Manual. mc good Behavior Game Manual http://www.pbis.org/ Positive Behavior Intervention Supports http://www.nc/rs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/236175.pdf Shifting Boundaries Intervention http://www.cfchildren.org/ Developers of Second Step, Steps to Respect http://web.uvic.ca/wits/ WITS-Canadian bully prevention program Cultee of Education Att ILLINOIS

