

Introducing the *Steps to Respect* Program

Andy dreaded going to school. He even hated recess. He suffered through the same things every day: the shoving, the teasing, the name-calling, and the threats. Today, the students who bully Andy stole his hat. Then they roughed him up when he tried to get it back. Andy thought about telling his teacher. But he feared that his teacher wouldn't really help and everything would just get worse.

Like Andy, many children don't talk to adults about the serious problems they face. Many children believe that adults can't—or won't—help. They also worry that reporting bullying is the same as tattling.

All students face bullying problems at school. Research shows that bullying can be reduced greatly, but only when the whole school (staff, students, and parents) tackles the problem together. *Steps to Respect: A Bullying Prevention Program* is one way to do that. The primary goal of the program is to help create a safe, caring, respectful learning environment in which bullying is not tolerated.

As part of the *Steps to Respect* program, students in your child's class will learn new skills to help them build friendships and deal with bullying. For example, they will learn how to:

- Make friends.
- Join group activities.
- Manage conflicts.
- Recognize, refuse, and report bullying—whether it happens to them or someone else.

Throughout the program, you will receive several updates about what your child is learning. Please watch for these interesting and informative handouts. Try the suggested ideas to help your child practice *Steps to Respect* skills. And join us in creating and maintaining a safe, positive school environment!

