

Violence Prevention Tips

For Teachers/Staff:

- Make students feel welcome when new to the school.
- Greet students every morning with a smile. This starts the day off on a pleasant note
- Create a culture of warmth (caring for each other), respect, and trust in the classrooms/school and empower students to maintain this atmosphere everyday. This benefits students with a safe and healthy environment in which to learn.
- Initiate opportunities for open communication at all times.
- Be a resource for students before and after school. Refer them to agencies, counselors, etc. when appropriate.
- Allow students to see/hear that you are human, too. This helps students to understand that adults also have feelings.
- Celebrate cultural diversity. This gives students an opportunity to appreciate differences as learning tools.
- Acknowledge student birthdays and let them know they are special.
- Think before reacting to students. What you say could have lasting effects.
- Reward a student for an act of kindness and ask the student to do the same (*Pay It Forward*) for someone else (fellow student or teacher/staff).
- Create a confidential hotline or process by which students can report adverse acts/behaviors.

For Students:

- Talk about what helps you feel confident with a friend.
- Talk with adults to let them know what they can do to help their kids feel confident.
- Adults can ask students what they can do to help the students feel valued.
- Listen to your friends/classmates and encourage them to get help when they are troubled.
- Welcome new students, introduce them to others, invite them to lunch, sporting events, or other student activities.
- Volunteer in violence prevention programs such as conflict resolution and peer mediation and then become a facilitator for these programs.
- Participate in positive youth activities and take on leadership roles with your peers.
- Work with teachers to create a safe process for reporting threats, activities, or signs of adverse behavior. This could assist troubled students to receive help instead of suffering consequences.
- High schools students can volunteer to mentor younger students. It can give you the confidence to know you can make a difference for others

For More Information
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- Be a role model by showing that conflicts can be resolved without violence. This can empower others to talk about their differences or seek help in resolving them. Know that it is okay to disagree.
- Seek out help from an adult/friend you can trust when experiencing intense feelings of anger, fear, anxiety, or depression.

For Parents:

- Talk with your children everyday about what is happening in their lives. Ask open-ended questions that require full answers.
- Make a consistent effort to monitor your children's behavior and notice any changes. Let them know you are there to help them with anything. Be willing to seek professional help when adverse behaviors are demonstrated.
- Know your children's friends and become acquainted with the parents. Know where your children are all the time and with whom.
- Keep the lines of communication open and be consistent.
- Even when children rebel, keep the lines of communication open and be persistent.
- Collaborate with other parents in carpooling for school functions, sports, etc.
- Model positive strategies in dealing with conflicts.
- Teach/model ways to peacefully resolve daily problems. Praise positive behavior.
- Continually keep lines of communication open so that your children can feel comfortable in approaching you with their problems.
- Pay attention when your children talk about a troubled friend(s). Can you help?
- Be involved with your children's school activities such as parent/teacher conferences, homework, open houses, PTA, and sports.
- Volunteer to work with schools to make it more responsive to all students and families.
- Volunteer to work with school-based activities regarding violence prevention. If one doesn't exist, help to form one.
- Welcome new neighbors with your children.
- Ask kids what we can do to help them feel valued and confident.
- Consistently praise your kids for finding peaceful solutions to conflicts.
- Model ways of calming yourself down when conflicts occur.
- Model positive self talk.

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