

THE SPORTS MUSEUM PRESENTS



## **Helping Parents Deal with Bullying in Children's Lives**

# BOSTON ★ ★ ★ ★ VS ★ ★ ★ ★ BULLIES

# OUR TEAM



Kristie Mewis  
*Boston Breakers*



Torey Krug  
*Boston Bruins*



Andrew Farrell  
*New England  
Revolution*



Aly Raisman  
*Team USA  
Gymnastics*



Mookie Betts  
*Boston Red Sox*



Martin Bowes  
*Boston Cannons*



Terry Rozier  
*Boston Celtics*



Patrick Chung  
*New England  
Patriots*



Cydney Ross  
*BAA*



# THE INITIATIVE

BOSTON vs BULLIES is an anti-bullying initiative presented by The Sports Museum and the Boston sports community. It features athletes from Boston's professional sports teams sharing their stories and providing kids in our community with ways to stand strong against bullying.

Learn more about our athletes at  
[bostonvsbullies.org](http://bostonvsbullies.org)



# BOSTON VS BULLIES

# PROGRAM FUNDING





# THE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the definition of bullying
- Learn how to help your kids
  - If they are doing the bullying
  - If they are being bullied
  - If they are watching the bullying take place
- Learn what you and your kids can do about cyberbullying
- Engage kids with disabilities in preventing and stopping bullying



- Kids with disabilities can be active participants in helping to prevent and stop bullying.
- It's important to include all kids, with or without a disability, in bullying prevention.



On May 3, 2010, Governor Deval Patrick signed the **Bully Prevention and Intervention Law**, joining 42 other states with similar legislation.

## Spirit of the Law

- All children – no matter their race, creed, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, or physical abilities – have an inherent right to an education free of any form of bullying



# BULLYING & KIDS WITH DISABILITIES

Kids with physical, developmental, intellectual, emotional, or sensory disabilities are more likely to be bullied than their peers.







# PARENT SURVEY

- 65% reported that their child had been victimized by peers in some way within the past year
- 47% reported that their child had been hit by peers or siblings
- 50% reported that their child was scared of their peers
- 12% said that their child had never been invited to a birthday party

From 2009 survey of parents of children with Asperger's Syndrome





# National Autism Association Report

High incidents of bullying of children with disabilities, especially for children on the autism spectrum.

- Research shows 2 – 3x more likely to be bullied than their non-disabled peers.
- Often lack social cognition and ability to take someone else's perspective making them prime targets for bullies.



# WHAT IS BULLYING?

# WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is emotional or physical abuse that has 3 defining characteristics

1. It's on purpose
2. It happens over and over again
3. It's an abuse of power



# TYPES OF BULLYING

**Physical:** Pushing, punching, beating up, etc.

**Verbal:** Teasing, name calling, threatening and inappropriate gestures





**Relational:** Excluding, ignoring, spreading rumors, getting others to turn against someone

**Cyberbullying:** Sending or posting hurtful, embarrassing text or images using the internet, cell phones, smartphones, or other devices



# ACTIVITY

## LOOK OUT FOR BULLYING

	VERBAL BULLYING	
	PHYSICAL BULLYING	
	RELATIONAL BULLYING	
	CYBERBULLYING	

Ask kids to give examples of the different types of bullying: verbal, physical, relational, and cyberbullying.



# KIDS WHO DO THE BULLYING



# WHY KIDS BULLY

- Enjoy using/abusing their power
- Crave attention
- May lack self-confidence
- May be having problems at home or in school
- May have been a victim of bullying

# THE REACTION OF KIDS WHO BULLY

- Denies he/she did anything wrong
- He or she trivializes the incident
- He or she counterattacks the victim
- He or she starts to cry and says he/she is the victim
- He or she counts on the bystanders to back up his/her story



# IF YOUR CHILD IS BULLYING OTHERS

- Set firm and consistent limits on bullying behavior – bullying is never acceptable
- Be a positive role model
- Use effective non-physical discipline
- Teach children the effects of their actions on the victims
- Develop positive communications with the school
- Help your child develop empathy through volunteering or helping others



# ACTIVITY

## *PREDICT WHAT COULD HAPPEN*

Provide examples of a positive and a negative statement. Then, for each pair of statements, ask kids to answer the following questions:

- How will the person you say this to feel?
- How will you feel?
- What will happen next?

### Negative Statements

- "You're ugly."
- "You're mean."
- "Give me that."

### Positive Statements

- "You're pretty."
- "You're nice."
- "Let's share."





# KIDS WHO GET BULLIED

# WHY KIDS GET BULLIED

Kids can get bullied for any reason including:

- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Physical attributes
- Mental abilities
- National origin
- New to school
- Rich or poor

# INDICATORS OF BULLYING

- Unexplained reluctance to go to school
- Fearfulness or unusual anxiety
- Sleep disturbances and nightmares
- Vague physical complaints, such as headaches or stomachaches, especially on school days
- Belongings that are lost or damaged





# IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD IS A TARGET

- Do not ask him/her directly
- Ask questions, such as: What goes on during lunch? What is it like walking to school or riding a bus? Are there any children who are bullying? Do they sometimes bully you?
- Be a good listener – allow your child time to explain how he or she feels
- Practice ways to stand up to bullying



# POSITIVE THINGS PARENTS CAN DO

- Tell your child that he/she is a wonderful and caring person who does not deserve to be bullied
- Explain that children who bully have problems and need help
- Develop a buddy system with an older student
- Help your child develop new friendships and interests



# LET YOUR CHILD KNOW

- You are pleased that they have told you
- You believe them
- Let them know it's not their fault
- You're sorry that it has happened
- There are things we can do to make the bullying stop



# WHAT KIDS CAN DO

- Look the bully in the eye
- Respond in a calm, confident voice
- Talk to a trusted adult or friend
- Walk away
- Find a safe place to go

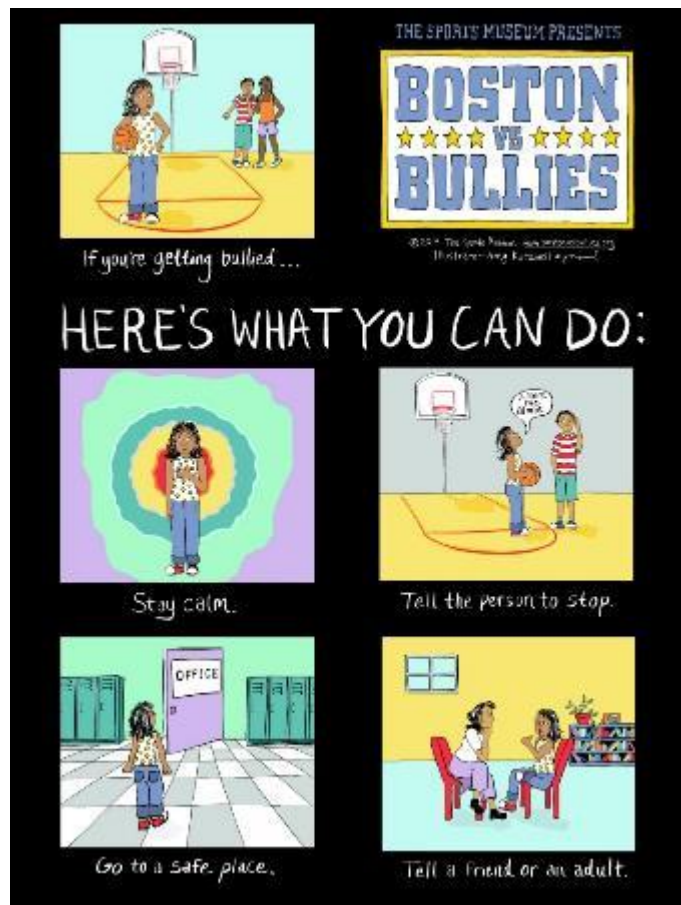


# WHAT KIDS SHOULD NOT DO

- Keep it to themselves
- Retaliate
- Ignore the problem
- Blame themselves

# BOSTON VS BULLIES

# POSTER HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO



When kids think ahead about what they will say and do in a bullying situation, they will be better prepared to do the right thing if and when bullying does happen.

- “What is happening in the picture?”  
*(A girl is being bullied)*
- “What is the girl feeling?”  
*(Sad, scared, embarrassed)*
- “What do you think she can do about it?”  
*(Stay calm, take a deep breath, remind herself that it's not her fault, find help)*

# BULLYING & KIDS WITH DISABILITIES

Three forms of bullying have been identified that especially involve children with disabilities:

- **Manipulative Bullying:** A child is coerced and controlled by another child
- **Conditional friendship:** A child thinks that someone is their friend, but that friendship is alternated with bullying behavior
- **Exploitative Bullying:** The features of a child's disability are used to bully that child



# WORKSHEET FRIEND DETECTIVE

THE SPORTS MUSEUM PRESENTS



## FRIEND DETECTIVE

### FRIENDS

#### Friendship is two-way:

- ☐ You are willing to share with a friend and your friend shares with you
- ☐ You help your friend and your friend helps you

#### Friendship is unconditional:

- ☐ A friend will still be a friend if you are having a bad day
- ☐ A friend will still be a friend if you say, "I won't do that because it makes me feel uncomfortable."

#### Friends want the best for you:

- ☐ Friends want you to feel safe, included, and comfortable
- ☐ Friends help each other

### NOT FRIENDS

#### One-sided friendship:

- ☐ If someone asks you to share all the time and doesn't share back

#### Conditional friendship:

- ☐ "I'll be your friend if you. . ."
- ☐ "If you don't give me your cookies, I won't be your friend."

#### Not-Friends:

- ☐ Not-friends don't want the best for you
- ☐ Not-friends don't care if you feel unsafe, uncomfortable, scared, hungry, or sad

If someone asks you to do something that makes you feel bad, it is OK to say, "No."

This activity is designed to help kids detect when friendship is used in hurtful ways to bully others.

- Discuss with kids, "What makes a good friend?"
- Discuss with kids the difference between unconditional and conditional friendship
- Review the criteria in the chart to help kids detect who is a true friend and who is not



THE SPORTS MUSEUM



# THE BYSTANDER

# WHY BYSTANDERS STAY SILENT

- Afraid of standing up to the bully because they may, in turn, become the target
- Fear being called “snitch,” “tattletale,” “rat,” etc.
- Are drawn into bullying by group pressure
- Feel unsafe
- Fear retaliation
- Believe someone else will help stand up to bullying
- Feel powerless or that nothing can be done to stop bullying

# WHAT KIDS CAN DO AS A BYSTANDER

## Direct Intervention:

- Help the kid being bullied walk away
- Urge the kid doing the bullying to walk away
- Tell the bully to stop
- Play peacemaker
- Discourage the bully by expressing disapproval
- Defend the kid being bullied

# WHAT KIDS CAN DO AS A BYSTANDER

## Indirect Intervention:

- Rally support from other kids to stand up against the bullying
- Show friendship and support for the kid being bullied
- Get help from a trusted adult
- Walk away from the situation
- Redirect the situations away from the bullying (change the subject or start a new activity)



# ACTIVITY *GAME PLAN*

All kids have the power to help other kids stand up to bullying – but it takes practice and a team effort.



1. Have kids make a 3-step game plan for how to respond when they see or hear about bullying
2. Create an All Star Team
3. Ask kids to role-play different ways they could be a helpful bystander – practice a variety of responses





# CYBERBULLYING





# WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying is sending hurtful, embarrassing, or threatening text or images using:

- Internet
- Cell phones
- Smartphones
- Any other digital communication devices



# WHAT KIDS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CYBERBULLYING

- If you put something online, you can't take it back
- You can't control who will see what you put online
- Don't share personal information online -- that information can be used for cyberbullying
- Cyberbullying can cause a lot of damage by reaching many kids very quickly
- Posting false or private information can isolate kids and ruin reputations
- Don't share your passwords with your friends



# WHAT KIDS CAN DO IF THEY SEE CYBERBULLYING

- Don't join in the cyberbullying
- Don't encourage it by forwarding the message or reposting it
- Intervene by showing support for the victim or telling the bully to stop
- Get help from an adult



# IF YOUR CHILD IS GETTING CYBERBULLIED

- Check your child's digital devices
- It's best not to respond – kids who cyberbully like to get reactions from their targets
- Report the material to the school, the police, and/or to the website
- Block the person doing the cyberbullying by deleting them as online friends or followers



# BE PROACTIVE

- Talk to your child about bullying before it becomes a problem.
- Pay careful attention to the warning signs of bullying.
- Assure your child that if a problem occurs, you are there to help.
- Be informed about your school policies about bullying.
- Explain that everyone can help prevent bullying.



# WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO

- Inform teachers, parents, and kids about bullying prevention policies and procedures.
- Post rules and posters throughout the school.
- Monitor hallways, school yard, cafeteria, gym, bathrooms, etc.
- Establish confidential reporting procedures and follow up.
- Communicate regularly with families about bullying prevention.



# WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- If you suspect your child is being bullied, talk with your child.
- Explain that this is not his/her fault.
- Ask for details, listen carefully, watch your child's reactions.
- Explain that you can help and work together to solve the problem.
- If necessary, speak with your child's teachers or principal.
- Tell your child that reporting is important and telling is not tattling.

THE SPORTS MUSEUM PRESENTS



**Let's Win This One  
Together!**

