

# CACY COMMUNICATOR

## BULLYING EDITION



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## The Role of the Bystander

Bullying involves more than the bully and the victim. It also involves bystanders, those who watch bullying or hear about it. Depending on the bystander's response, they can either contribute to the problem or the solution. Bystanders rarely play a neutral role.

### The Hurtful Bystander

- Instigates the bullying by prodding the bully to begin.
- Encourages the bullying by laughing or cheering
- Joins in once the bullying has begun

### The Passive Bystander

- Watches and does nothing. This contributes to the problem as they provide an audience a bully seeks and the silent acceptance which allows bullies to continue their hurtful behavior. Being passive signals to the bully what they are doing is ok.

### The Helpful Bystander

- Intervenes by verbally discouraging the bully or defends the victim
- Gets help by quickly reporting the bullying to adults or by rallying support

from peers to stand up to the bully

- Helps the victim walk away
- Afterwards, tells the victim they feel bad about what happened and offers them comfort and support.

Research shows that bystanders can effectively stop bullying within 10 seconds of an intervention. When you see someone being bullied or cyberbullied, be a helpful bystander and help stop the situation. Your involvement makes a difference!

## Why Don't Bystanders Intervene?

- They think it is none of their business
- They fear getting hurt or becoming another victim
- They feel powerless to stop the bullying
- They don't like the victim or believes the victim "deserves it"
- They don't want to draw attention to themselves
- They fear retaliation
- They think telling adults won't help or could make things worse.

Adults can impact bullying by

teaching bystanders about the different roles they play. Let bystanders know adults will help and support them. Adults can provide examples of how helpful bystanders have shown courage and made a difference in real-life situations and in their own experiences.

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### CACY's Core

**Purpose:** To provide tobacco, alcohol, violence and drug prevention information, education and coordination by bringing together schools, parents, government, law enforcement, agencies, business and community members who work toward making our county a healthier, safer place to live.

Jodi Floyd, CACY Prevention Educator is available to answer questions. Please call if you are interested in having a speaker about Bullying. 419-774-5683

# Resources



## **Stopbullying.gov**

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

## **Bullying Statistics— Parenting a Bully**

[www.bullyingstatistics.org](http://www.bullyingstatistics.org)

## **Bullying Prevention: Parent Information**

[www.education.com](http://www.education.com)

## **National Bullying Prevention Center**

[www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/info-facts.asp](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/info-facts.asp)

## **Be More than a Bystander—** Interactive tool to teach kids how to help in a bullying situation

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/respond/be-more-than-a-bystander/>

## **Erase Bullying**

<http://www.erasebullying.ca/youth/youth-bystander.php>

## **Eyes on Bullying**

<http://www.eyesonbullying.org/bystander.html>

