



The Kids on the Block Program on **Bullies & School Safety**

Featuring: Eddy Franklin, Clare Sanchez, and Melody James

School staff and students deserve a safe place in which to work. For some schools violence and crime are minor issues, for others they are daily occurrences. For the majority of schools, extreme forms of violence are rare. Nonetheless, the threat of any kind of violence may keep students out of school, prevent participation in after-school events, and create an undermining climate of fear within the school.

Often, fear of violence comes at the hands of the school bully. Bullying has long been considered a natural part of growing up. Children are faced with an ever-growing number of stresses. The stress of teasing, name calling, social stigmatization and physical bullying may send a child into a severe depression, cause them to live in constant fear that the bullying will continue and, in the saddest and most desperate situation, can lead a child to commit suicide. With results like these, it is crucial that adults prevent, intervene, and assume responsibility for stopping this behavior.

The Kids on the Block Program on Bullies & School Safety is designed to create a awareness of what constitutes bullying, present problem solving strategies, encourage empathy for the targets of bullies, and explore ways that students may be involved in promoting safety in their school.

The complete curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, three scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources to teach children about bullies and school safety.



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Script Summaries

You're Not the Boss of Me!

Eddy is being harassed by a school bully and is unsure how to resolve the situation. When his friend, Clare insists he talk about it, Eddy lashes out in frustration. With Clare's help, Eddy learns that problems with a bully are not something to be ashamed of or embarrassed about—nor are bullies a problem which must be dealt with by an individual. **(Eddy, Clare)**

Safe At School

Melody and her classmate, Eddy Franklin have volunteered to work on a student committee to help develop a school safety plan at Woodburn Elementary. They have enlisted the help of teen mentor, Clare Sanchez, who shows them that bullying and other school crimes can have a negative effect on the entire school population, not only the targets of those crimes. With the audiences help, the kids brainstorm ways to promote safety and reduce crime in their school. **(Melody, Clare, Eddy)**

Rescue or Report

Melody is feeling badly that her friend Brenda was teased on her way home from school. She feels guilty that she wasn't there to stop the situation. When Eddy asks Melody how her presence would have made a difference, she explains that bullies often target kids who appear to be "easy prey." Melody demonstrates that "getting involved" and helping another person does not necessarily mean confronting the bully. **(Melody, Eddy)**

NOTE: After each script the children in the audience are given the opportunity to problem solve or ask their own questions directly to the puppet characters.

The Kids on the Block, created in 1977, features life size puppets who, through the magic of live puppet theatre, teach children and adults about disabilities, medical and educational differences, and social concerns. Through the hard work and dedication of many community based groups, **The Kids on the Block** puppets are able to touch the lives of people all over the world.