

# EPCC Newsletter



## Do young children bully?

BY WILMA GOLD

Image courtesy of [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)

*This is an interesting question and for most teachers and families the word BULLY is a real button pusher! In reading the literature it is important to separate developmentally appropriate (albeit behavior we want to change) from bullying. The definition of bullying is; bullying is physical or verbal abuse that occurs repeatedly and involves a power imbalance.*

What is developmentally appropriate? When is the behavior aggressive and undesirable and when is it a developmental stage where the child may not yet have the skills to use a more socially acceptable strategy to get his/her needs met. Create classroom agreements with all of the children about the power of language. That is a major developmental journey. Our job as the adults in the room is to give children the language to express their needs, wants and feelings rather than the physical reactions (pushing, biting, hitting, throwing). This response is not "use your words". If the child had the words and believed they would work, they would use them. We role model and provide language in a supportive non-judgmental manner MANY times over. It takes time to learn and trust and become fluent with the language you are teaching.

As children become more competent and patient, 4 - 7 years old, the children can and should be involved in creating the culture of their classrooms and homes. When children are a part of the development of the agreements for the group and then hold

themselves and each other accountable, the community culture is created. Watching one 4-year-old bring another into the classroom and pointing to the chart of agreements that they created with their teachers saying, "See we all agreed that we would not grab toys from each other!" warmed my heart. That is the manifestation of the development of community and the prevention of bullying.

Much of the literature presents the building of a caring community as the path to prevention of bullying and aggressive behavior and words. When we create an environment where children and adults work and play together the children learn respect, sharing and collaboration which leaves no room for bullying. That is not to say that there won't be one child here and there that is more challenging, less willing to accept community guidelines or comes into class with stress that interferes with their ability to be in relationship with others in a positive way. Here are several classroom community building ideas that you can use tomorrow!

(continued, page 3)



EPCC panelists at the 2018 California Association for the Education of Young Children Conference. Read about the 2019 conference on page 3!

## How can I get involved?

*We are honored that you have opened and perused our quarterly newsletter.*

We value your input and support for our peace education work that is so close to our hearts and minds. There are many ways that you can support our work with educators, families and communities across the country.

Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- Share your training or workshop experiences with others.
- Think about what you see on our website ([educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org](http://educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org)) that you might be interested in organizing for your community or sponsoring/funding or participating in yourself
- Tell others about the training opportunities we offer
- Refer others to our website
- Grant writing support, or leads
- Offer leads for training or speaking opportunities
- Offer leads for funding sources
- Offer leads for marketing our project

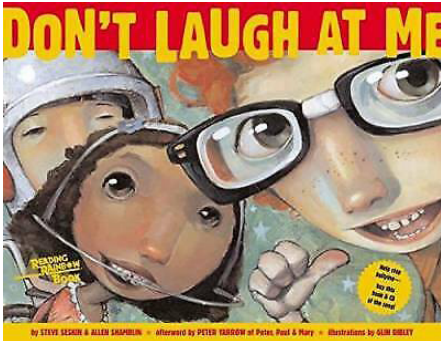
Please share this newsletter and refer others to our website, [educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org](http://educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org). If you have any questions email us at [pambonzvo@gmail.com](mailto:pambonzvo@gmail.com).

## BOOK REVIEW

# "Don't Laugh at Me"

by Steve Seskin, Allen Shamblin, Illustrated by Glin Dibley  
Reading Rainbow July 23, 2002

BY VERONICA HERNANDEZ



The book "Don't Laugh at Me", is based on a song by Peter Yarrow. It invites educators, and families to have a dialogue about bullying with children. It is difficult to observe bullying in an early childhood setting, but we must

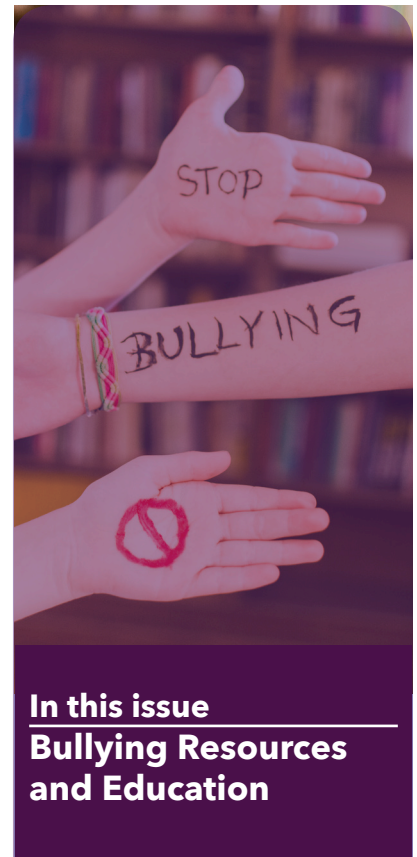
remember that children model behavior, based on their personal interactions with peers, family and environment. And although, many people feel, that children do not understand at bullying at an early age, they do understand the topic of, "Making fun of others." As an early childhood educator for 18 years, I feel this book is a wonderful introduction to advocacy. I encourage you to read when it when there is conflict between children, concerning differences in appearances, making fun of each other, or when children exclude other peers. The conversations between the children, will leave you speechless.

## "Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right." - Theodore Roosevelt

## Alumni Corner

IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED LEVEL I & II THIS ALUMNI CORNER IS FOR YOU!

- Are you interested in becoming a trainer or in creating and presenting workshops in the name of EPCC? Contact [Educatorspcc@gmail.com](mailto:Educatorspcc@gmail.com) or [lolamcornish@gmail.com](mailto:lolamcornish@gmail.com).
- If you have news to share. We would love to hear your success stories. Send it to [Educatorspcc@gmail.com](mailto:Educatorspcc@gmail.com) or [mpearce4104@gmail.com](mailto:mpearce4104@gmail.com).
- Watch for your alumni emails and put the email address [Educatorspcc@gmail.com](mailto:Educatorspcc@gmail.com) in your address book so that these messages do not go into your junk folder.



### In this issue Bullying Resources and Education

- 1 BOOK REVIEWS  
[Don't Laugh at Me](#) by Steve Seskin and Allen Shamblin
- 2 DO YOUNG CHILDREN BULLY?  
Learn about non-verbal mediation techniques for very young children.
- 3 BULLYING RESOURCES  
An updated guide for 2019
- 4 RECAP: CAAEYC 2019  
Read about EPCC's involvement at the 2019 conference.
- 5 ALUMNI CORNER  
How to stay involved once you've completed training.



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## Sign up for email updates

CLICK TO JOIN

EMAIL [EDUCATORSPCC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EDUCATORSPCC@GMAIL.COM)  
SUBJECT LINE: ADD ME TO YOUR E-BLASTS

And remember to add [EDUCATORSPCC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EDUCATORSPCC@GMAIL.COM) to your address book.

### OUR ORGANIZATION

EDUCATORS FOR PEACEFUL CLASSROOMS AND COMMUNITIES

MAILING ADDRESS  
520 Calabasas Rd.  
Watsonville, Ca 95076  
EMAIL: [pambonzvo@gmail.com](mailto:pambonzvo@gmail.com)

### FIND US ONLINE

[educatorsforpeacefulclassrooms  
andcommunities.org](http://educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org)



EPCC's table at the conference.

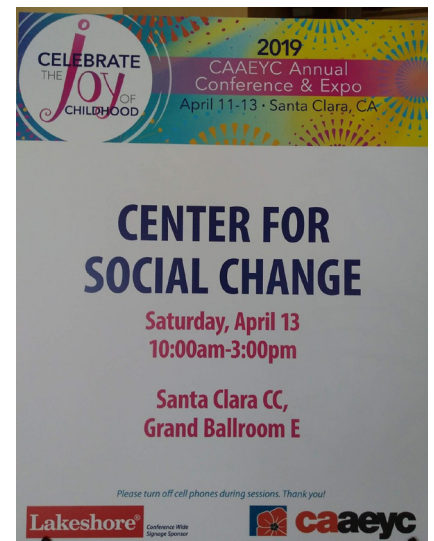


An activity station at the Center for Social Change.

## Recap: CAAIEYC 2019 Conference

Celebrate the Joy of Childhood was the theme of the 2019 CAAIEYC annual conference. The conference was held in Santa Clara, California on April 11-13th. EPCC presented in three workshops: A Taste of Peace Education in the Classroom, Intentional Use of Puppets with Young Children, and The Importance of Play and Peace Education.

The Center for Social Change held on Saturday, April 13th, 2019. EPCC, along with Family Child Care Committee, Men in Early Childhood Education, Peace Camp, and several others offered a day of activities exploring the joy of learning. A panel discussion on the joy of learning, singing, and a quiet space were all a part of the center.



## Do young children bully?

Classroom Community-Building Ideas *continued from page 1*

- Look at the physical environment. Are there areas of the room that create stressful situations, such as too few of popular items, too small a space for children to fit comfortably or too much in the room for the children to move and make decisions comfortably.
- Observe how the children handle transitions. Is your schedule developmentally appropriate? Do children have the time to move in and out of activities comfortably?
- Observe the child who concerns you to discover the events that precipitate the aggressive behavior.
- Create classroom agreements with all the children and post them in the room.
- Mediate with younger children by providing the words that they may not yet have.
- Mediate with older children with open ended questions and assisting in their development to listen and find agreements.
- Role play conflicts with the children and help them come up with possible solutions.
- Talk about feelings. Include books on the shelf and in group time that deal with feelings and conflicts.

# Changing the Dynamics in the Early Childhood Setting from Bullying to Empowerment

Websites and Books for Thinking about Bullying: Strategies for Coping and Prevention

## WEB RESOURCES

- [www.childline.org.uk/Bullying.asp](http://www.childline.org.uk/Bullying.asp)
- [www.pta.org/bullying/](http://www.pta.org/bullying/)
- [www.challengingbehavior.com](http://www.challengingbehavior.com)
- [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)
- [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)
- <http://preventingbullying.promoteprevent.org/preventing-bullying-in-early-childhood>
- <http://antibullyingsoftware.com/>
- <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/TeachingAboutBullying/StartinginEarlyChildhood>
- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/behaviour/bullying>
- [www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/how-raise-happy-cooperative-child/201208/bullying-in-young-children](http://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/how-raise-happy-cooperative-child/201208/bullying-in-young-children)
- [www.apa.org/helpcenter/bullying.aspx/How-parents-teachers-and-kids-can-take-action-to-prevent-bullying](http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/bullying.aspx/How-parents-teachers-and-kids-can-take-action-to-prevent-bullying)
- <https://www.kidsmentalhealthinfo.com/topics/mental-health-schools/bullying-school-climate/>

## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

### THE BRAND NEW KID

by Katie Couric  
Ages 5-9 years

### BULLY

by Judith Caseley  
Ages 4-8 years

### HANDS ARE NOT FOR HITTING

by Martine Agassi, Ph.D  
Ages 1-4

### HEY, LITTLE ANT

by Phillip M. Hoose  
Ages 3-7 years

### MY NAME IS NOT DUMMY

by Elizabeth Crary  
Ages 4-8 years

### I WANT TO PLAY

by Elizabeth Crary  
Ages 4-8 years

### NOBODY KNEW WHAT TO DO: A STORY ABOUT BULLYING

by Becky Ray McCain  
Ages 5-7 years

### SAY SOMETHING

by Peggy Moss  
Ages 5-8 years

### MARIANTHE'S STORY: PAINTED WORDS AND SPOKEN MEMORIES

by Alik  
Ages 4-8 years

### ROSA PARKS AND MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

by Connie Colwell Miller  
Ages 8-14 years

### SECRET OF THE PEACEFUL WARRIOR

by Dan Millman  
Ages 4-10 years

### MAKE SOMEONE SMILE

by Judy Lalli  
Ages 5 and up

### WE CAN WORK IT OUT

by Barbara Kay Pollard  
Ages 5-10 years

### MY SECRET BULLY

by Trudy Ludwig  
Ages 6-9 years

### BULLY ON THE BUS

by Carl Bosch  
Ages 7-12 years

## BOOKS FOR ADULTS

### THE NEW BULLY FREE CLASSROOM: PROVEN PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS K-8

by Allen L. Beane Ph.D.

### THE KINDNESS OF CHILDREN by Vivian Gussin Paley

### THE KINDNESS CURRICULUM: INTRODUCING YOUNG CHILDREN TO LOVING VALUES by Judith Anne Rice

### THE PARENT'S BOOK ABOUT BULLYING: CHANGING THE COURSE OF YOUR CHILD'S LIFE by William Voors

### QUIT IT! A TEACHER'S GUIDE ON TEASING AND BULLYING by Merle Froschl, Sprung, Mulin-Rindler, Stein and Gropper

### THE ANTI-BULLYING AND TEASING BOOK FOR PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS by Barbara Sprung and Merle Froschl

### RESPECT: AN EXPLORATION by Sarah Lawrence-Lightfoot

### THAT'S NOT FAIR!: A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO ACTIVISM WITH YOUNG CHILDREN by Ann Pelo and Fran Davidson

### THEY DON'T LIKE ME: LESSONS ON BULLYING AND TEASING FROM A PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM by Jane Katch

### THINKING TOGETHER WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: WEAVING A TAPESTRY OF COMMUNITY by Susan Hopkins (self-published)

### WHEN STUDENTS HAVE POWER by Ira Shor

### YOU CAN'T SAY YOU CAN'T PLAY by Vivian Paley