

# BULLYING: A LITERACY ISSUE?

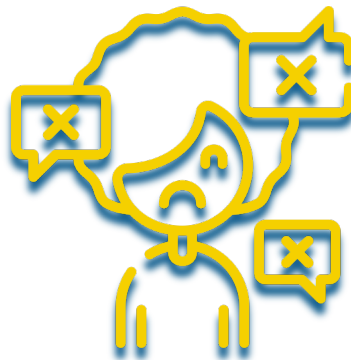
It may very well be!

There are Canadian researchers studying the relationship between low literacy skills and bullying. It's a fact: Being bullied keeps children from enjoying the school experience and that in itself makes it harder for them to learn.

## AS PARENTS WE SHOULD REMEMBER:

We need to talk about the topic of bullying often with our children and keep the lines of communication open.

A campaign against bullying must be a community affair that involves parents, all school staff, students, and members of the community.



ALL children are hurt by bullying: Some passive bystanders feel very bad and experience the same symptoms as the victims of the violence. Others are drawn in and join in with the bully.

Bullying is an abuse of power, a form of peer abuse. Bullying behaviour doesn't stop after elementary school; it takes on other forms of anti-social behaviour.

We need to teach our children the difference between tattling and informing. Tattling is telling to get someone into trouble; informing is done to get someone out of trouble.

This page adapted from QFHSA pamphlet, "Putting an End to Bullying" with AMCAL. 2001, 2003

Further Reading: [The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander](#) by Barbara Coloroso, 2004.  
[Bullying, School Exclusion and Literacy - Discussion Paper](#) by Mark Totten and Perpetua Quigley,  
Publisher: Canadian Public Health Association.

