

Kindness Counts: How to Handle Bullies

In this lesson, students will hear from an expert about how to identify bullying behaviors and respond to bullying, including ways bystanders can help stop bullying.

Grades: K-3		Subject(s): ELA
Focus Standard(s)	RI.1 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text. SL.1: Participate in collaborative conversations about grade-level topics and texts.	
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to ask and answer questions about key details in a nonfiction text and participate in collaborative conversations to share ideas and build understanding with their classmates.	
Materials/Resources	How to Deal with Bullies Chart paper; markers	
Vocabulary	intimidating: scary bystander: person that is not part of a situation	
Anticipatory Set	Ask students, “Have you ever run into a bully at the playground, or even in your classroom? How did you react? Did you tell an adult? Did you run away?” Let students share quick examples, reminding them to speak respectfully and avoid using names.	
Mini-Lesson	1. Introduce the vocabulary words and give student-friendly examples. Clarify what the term bullying means – when mean words or actions happen over and over again. 2. Read the article aloud, pausing after each tip to ask: “What does this tip mean in your own words? Have you ever seen this happen or used this strategy before? Why might this work?”	
Guided Practice	In pairs, have students practice short scenarios, acting out kind and safe responses based on the article’s tips: • A bully makes fun of someone at lunch. • A bully pushes near the water fountain. • You see someone being teased on the bus. Develop a class Contract of Kindness that demonstrates appropriate behaviors and ways to be kind to one another. Ask students, “<i>What can we promise to do so everyone feels safe, respected, and welcome in our class?</i>” Record ideas on a piece of chart paper (e.g., “We will speak kindly,” “We will tell an adult if someone needs help,” “We will help friends who are being picked on”). Invite students to sign the Contract of Kindness, then hang it in a visible spot in the classroom.	
Closure	Exit Slip: “What’s one thing you can say or do if you see bullying?”	
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or read-to-me feature as needed; print copies of the article.	