



## APPROACHING THE SCHOOL

**Spotty** and **Dot** walk to school together. **Spotty** is looking stressed and is reassured by **Dot**. At the school they knock on the teacher's door, and are invited in. The teacher asks after **Spotty**. **Dot** encourages **Spotty** to share and the teacher listens carefully, bringing **Dot** into the conversation as well. The vignette ends with the three of them deep in discussion, with **Spotty** leading it.

### MESSAGE

How productive it can be for families to seek support from the school.

It is also important that the school provide support along with space for students and parents to talk and have a meaningful role in problem-solving and decision-making.

#### Narrated Message

*It is important for our children's well-being that we collaborate as parents and teachers, acting as positive role models.*

*It can be difficult to approach a teacher when our child is being bullied, bullying others – or watching it happen.*

*We all have a role to play in preventing bullying and in creating a caring, positive learning environment.*

### ISSUES

- Feeling afraid to stop the bullying
- Feeling afraid to get help, or ashamed of not having intervened
- Caring adults making the time and space to have conversations about bullying
- Leaving space for children to take the lead in talking about their experiences
- Knowing who to talk to at the school about bullying issues

### STRATEGIES

- Setting aside time and having a private space for conversations about bullying
- Building healthy relationships between families, students and staff
- Allowing children to lead discussions about their bullying experiences
- Practising active listening techniques
- Letting families know they are not alone and have the support of the school
- Adults working together and acting as positive role models to young people

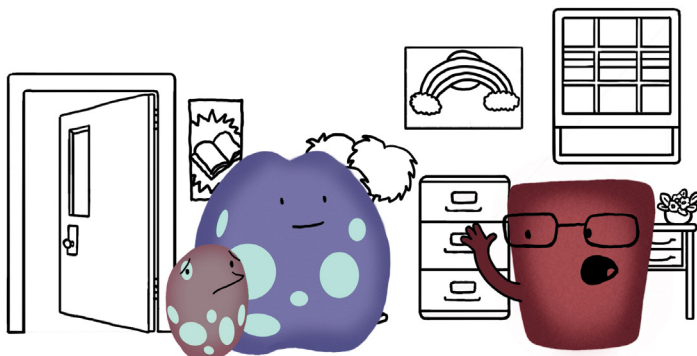
## QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

### Parents

1. What are some of the messages this vignette offers?
2. Would you find it easy or difficult to approach the school to talk about bullying? Why or why not?
3. What might encourage you to share a problem with your child's teacher?
4. How can parents and teachers listen actively and encourage problem-solving with our children?
5. What are strategies that encourage children to take the lead in a discussion?

### School Staff

1. How did the teacher in this vignette demonstrate support for the parent and student?
2. Do you have a space and time when parents and their children can come to discuss concerns privately? What are some of the challenges of being accessible in this way?
3. How can your school and the wider school community support you in creating opportunities for dialogue on bullying?
4. Do you know of any strategies for building strong relationships between school staff and parents?
5. Can you share an experience where you felt you worked well with a parent in helping to support a student involved in a bullying incident? Or something you might do differently?



## RESOURCES

- Safe@School: Building Healthy Partnerships  
[www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/healthy-communication/building-healthy-partnerships](http://www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/healthy-communication/building-healthy-partnerships)
- Mobilizing your School  
[www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/mobilizing-your-school](http://www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/mobilizing-your-school)
- Bullying: How to Talk with Educators at Your Child's School  
[www.education.com/reference/article/talk-educators-about-bullying](http://www.education.com/reference/article/talk-educators-about-bullying)
- How to Approach the School  
[www.beatbullying.org/dox/help/how-to-approach-the-school.html](http://www.beatbullying.org/dox/help/how-to-approach-the-school.html)
- Talking to the School  
[www.bulliesout.com/bullying/parents-carers/#talking2](http://www.bulliesout.com/bullying/parents-carers/#talking2)
- Talking to your Child's School about Bullying  
<http://aworldwithoutbullying.blogspot.ca/2012/02/talking-to-your-childs-school-about.html>
- How to Talk to Educators about Bullying  
<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/parents/Pages/BullyingPrevention.aspx>

## SCHOOL STAFF

- Safe@School: Professional Resources  
[www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=en/resources/resources-on-bullying/professional-resources](http://www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=en/resources/resources-on-bullying/professional-resources)
- Building Healthy Partnerships  
[www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/healthy-communication/building-healthy-partnerships](http://www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/healthy-communication/building-healthy-partnerships)
- Mobilizing your School  
[www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/mobilizing-your-school](http://www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=plm/bullying-prevention/mobilizing-your-school)
- Bullying Prevention Lesson Plans  
[www.peelregion.ca/health/bullying](http://www.peelregion.ca/health/bullying)
- What Schools Can Do  
<http://www.kenrigby.net/What-schools-can-do>
- Shared Concern  
<http://www.kenrigby.net/11e-Shared-Concern-Method-How-it-Works>