

Comments from students:

I LOVED participating in playback. I loved being able to express myself freely without being judged.

I learned that bullying is everywhere you go and there is a way to stop it.

I learned that by re-enacting other people's stories it gives them an image about what they could have done to prevent the situation.

[Playback Theatre] helps students realize the other things they can do to help people in bullying situations.

I learned not to be shy, and what to do in a bullying situation.

I learned that being yourself is not a crime.

Comments from school personnel:

"Many thanks for yet another successful year in which we bridged the challenging topic of bullying here at Highland Middle School. This is our fourth year of integrating Playback Theatre into our character education program and I believe that this year's No More Bullying Leadership Program was one of the most powerful projects implemented to date."

Maggie Anderson,
formerly Assistant Principal, Highland
Middle School, Highland, N.Y.

"We noticed how the process of telling stories and seeing them enacted promoted both empathy and empowerment. These performances enhanced the impact of the Olweus program."

Barbara Schnell,
Principal, Woodstock Elementary School,
Woodstock, NY.



Hudson River Playback Theatre

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No More Bullying!

Using story-based
interactive theatre to
address school bullying

Photos: Elissa Davidson

No More Bullying! is offered in two formats:

NMB performance series:

A team of five adult performers visits a school to carry out one or more performances. The team includes a facilitator, three actors, and musician. Performances are one hour with up to three performances per day.



NMB Leadership program:

Company members lead a series of 8 training workshops for 15-20 students. Following training, students join adult performers in a series of shows for student audiences in their school.

Students in the training group learn in depth about bullying and how they can make a difference. Recommended for 6th grade and up.

No More Bullying! uses interactive theatre based on students' real-life experiences to build empathy and empowerment. Using the power of creative expression, our approach gives students a chance to learn and practice practical steps that witnesses or bystanders can take to make their school a safer and more respectful place.

Students gain

- a clear understanding of what bullying is and a vocabulary to talk about it;
- a deepened empathy for others;
- a sense of affirmation and relief for those who've been bullied;
- practical knowledge of what witnesses/ bystanders can do next time they witness bullying;
- for the majority of children, motivation and resolve to take those actions.



No More Bullying! complements other anti-bullying programs. It supports and strengthens the impact of ongoing programs such as the Olweus program or PBIS.

Hudson River Playback Theatre has provided NMB to schools in the Mid-Hudson Valley of New York since 1999. We have worked with over 25,000 students from K-12.



Please contact us to discuss a program in your school:
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