

# SHARE Project on Children & Bullying

## Social Health and Relationships in Education

Professor Karen Rudolph  
University of Illinois

September 2006



### Inside this issue:

Dear Educators, Parents, and Students	1
What is bullying?	2-3
What do kids find stressful?	4
What can parents and educators do?	5
Teachers' perspective	6

Dear Educators, Parents, & Students,

We would like to thank all of you for your participation in the University of Illinois SHARE (**Social Health and Relationships in Education**) Project! SHARE is a federally funded research project designed to improve our understanding about children's social relationships during the school years. In particular, the goal of this project is to understand why some children get along well with their classmates whereas others experience more difficulties.

**Bullying has become a growing concern at schools.** Research shows that 10% of children (that is about 2-3 in every class) are *repeatedly* bullied at school. Others are bullied every now and then. Over the past few years, there have been several reported incidents of serious violence in the schools, and the media has suggested that many children who eventually turn to violence were once bullied themselves. We would like to understand better how bullying affects children, and how to teach children to cope with conflict. We hope this under-

standing will help psychologists, educators, and parents learn effective ways of creating a positive school climate and preventing some of the negative effects that are associated with bullying.

**Beginning in January of 2006, the SHARE team met with 373 second graders** (202 girls, 171 boys) in seven elementary schools in Champaign County and Sangamon County. Twenty-six teachers and 297 parents also participated in the project. Children completed surveys that asked about their experiences with bullying, how they deal with problems with peers, their goals in social situations (for example, do they think it is important to get along with others or to be in control), and their emotions. Some children were observed while on the playground so that we could see how children play together. Teachers and parents also completed surveys about children's social and psychological adjustment, and parents helped us to understand how they encourage their children to deal with teasing by their classmates. We are still in the process of compiling all of the information that we gathered, but would like to provide some feedback

about what we are finding. In the articles that follow, we describe some of our important findings and what they mean for teachers, parents, and students. We look forward to continuing our work with you over the next few years. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at:

Family Studies Lab  
University of Illinois  
603 E. Daniel Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 244-9385

**Thanks again for making the SHARE Project such a success.** We will be in touch soon for the next stage of the project!

Sincerely,  
The SHARE Project staff  
Jamie Abaied  
Molly Bartlett  
Megan Flynn  
Sarah Kang  
Cathy Koerber  
Karen Rudolph, Ph.D, Director

