



**DifferenceMakers, Ltd.**  
www.DifferenceMakers.com  
1129 Ortega Rd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114  
800.658.6082



## **BULLY-PROOFING YOUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

*By Albert Gonzales*

Bullying is a learned behavior that is established and solidified in environments that ignore the risk factors or in some cases support the negative behavior.

### **Environmental Risk Factors in the Home**

*Homes in which bullies live will most likely be:*

- Void of consistent adult supervision
- Hostile
- Supportive of aggression as a way of solving conflicts
- In neighborhoods where violence is commonplace
- Run by adults who model bully behavior (consciously or not)

### **Environmental Risk Factors in the School**

*Schools in which bullies reign will most likely:*

- Be crowded
- Not have a clear and consistent policy regarding harassment or bullying
- Not have adequate adult supervision
- Not have a staff trained in identifying bullies
- Have an administrative staff overwhelmed with discipline problems
- Treat every student conflict as mutual combat
- Not take the time to track violent behavior on campus
- Not have an intervention team who can share the discipline work load.
- Unaware of vulnerable areas on campus where students can be victimized outside they supervision that is available.
- Trade bullies with other schools as a means of discipline

### **Personal Risk Factors**

*Bullies are usually children:*

- Without adequate supervision
- Who were once victims of other bullies
- Who are without positive role models
- Who are fascinated or obsessed with video violence (e.g. TV, video games, etc.)
- Whose physical attributes allow them to dominate other children