

Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy

E. Bazelon, 2013

Project Prevent and Address Bullying (PPAB)

for students with disabilities

BOOK
REVIEW

Northern Illinois University | School Psychology Program

COST: Approximately \$15 on Amazon

PUBLISHER: Random House
New York, NY, 2013

Description of content:

This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the history, issues and current research surrounding bullying in schools. Bazelon uses journalistic experience and narrative skills to define what bullying is (and is not), dispels enduring myths about bullying and compiles a deep exploration of bullying issues. She utilizes narratives of three diverse, real-life bullying experiences to illustrate the progression of bullying and how it can escalate quickly. The organization of this book is engaging, logical and easy to follow. Bazelon returns to each one of these narratives as the book progresses, beginning with how these students found themselves in bullying situations. She then describes how these situations escalated quickly (involving myriad mental health issues and legal processes) and the solutions that the schools and communities did (or did not) provide to the students and their families. *Sticks and Stones* provides the reader with a substantial amount of information on bullying dynamics, research and interventions in a storytelling fashion. At the end of this book, several resources are provided (e.g., a discussion guide for classroom/group use and frequently asked questions about bullying). These are resources to help parents, educators, administrators and perhaps even adolescents themselves to become an integral part of this conversation, and ultimately, the solution.

Strengths:

- Incorporates current research and testimonies from experts in the field (e.g., Dorothy Espelage, Ph.D., Susan Swearer, Ph.D., and Dan Olweus Ph.D.)
- Discusses the extent and consequences of in-person bullying as well as cyberbullying
- Provides a history of bully prevention programs and research
- Counter-arguments to the focus on bully prevention programs are discussed and refuted
- Several current, research-based social emotional learning curricula are discussed in terms of feasibility of implementation
- Research-based and practitioner-oriented

Limitations:

Readers do not come away from this book with a comprehensive set of tools to implement directly with students who are experiencing bullying in the moment; pieces of information related to this are found in the FAQ section at the end of the book, but not necessarily intertwined throughout the narrative.

Audience:

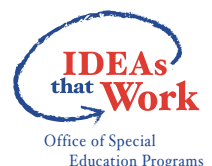
- Administrators, educators and parents.



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Disclaimers: This information was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H325K. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Bonnie Jones. This document was made by incorporating information from a variety of authors and organizations and is intended to be a resource. We do not claim sole ownership over any of the facts or ideas mentioned. A list of common resources can be found on the handout titled, "Resources."