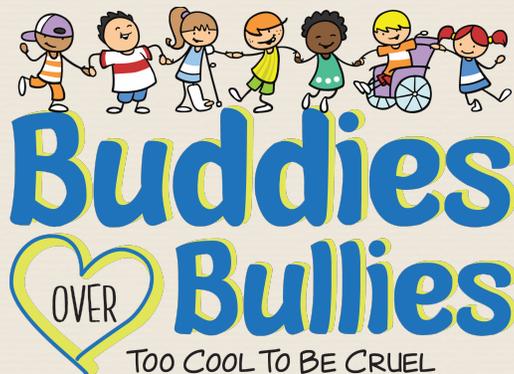


# Ann Storck Center



## Things you should know about Bullying:

1. It is not your fault. You are not to blame.
2. Victims are not alone. There are people here to help.
3. Bullying is never okay and you have the right to be safe.
4. No one deserves to be bullied.
5. You deserve to be treated with respect.
6. You have the right to feel safe at school.

## PARTNERS



Ann Storck Center is proud to present the "Buddies Over Bullies" program in conjunction with:



**Broward Sheriff's Office**



**Crime Commission of Broward County**

ANN STORCK CENTER, INC.  
1790 SW 43RD WAY • FORT LAUDERDALE, FL • 33317

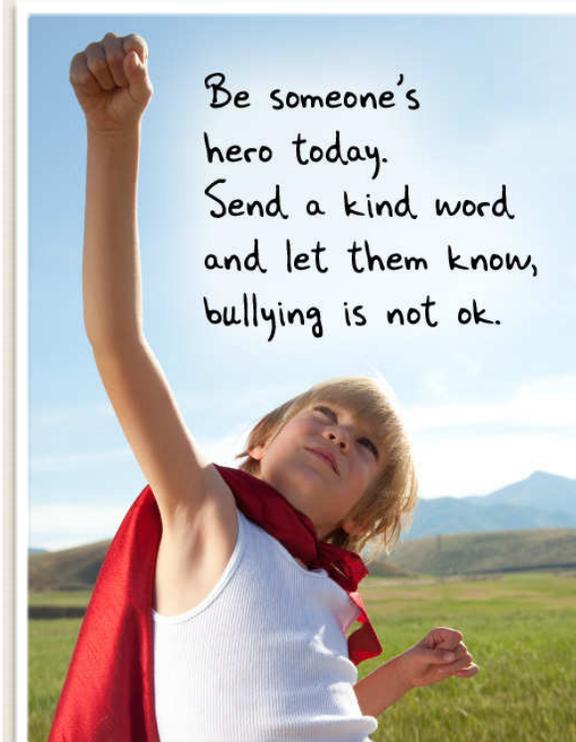
(954) 584-8000

[www.annstorckcenter.org](http://www.annstorckcenter.org)



# Buddies Over Bullies

TOO COOL TO BE CRUEL



 **annstorckcenter**<sup>TM</sup>  
Discovering Abilities - Building Independence



## BULLYING FACTS

According to researchers Wall, Wheaton and Zuver (2009), only 10 studies have been conducted in the United States on bullying and developmental disabilities. **All studies found that children with disabilities were 2 to 3 times more likely to be victims of bullying than their non-disabled peers.** In addition, the researchers found that the **bullying experienced by these children was more chronic in nature and was most often directly related to their disability.**



**The Massachusetts Advocates for Children, in a survey of nearly 400 parents of children with autism across the state, found that 88% of children with autism have been bullied at school ranging from verbal abuse to physical contact.**

# “BUDDIES OVER BULLIES”

Ann Storck Center is expanding upon an educational program it currently provides regarding abuse prevention and anti-bullying of individuals with disabilities. The Buddies Over Bullies program will foster a safer community through skill building, education, and community sensitivity training.

## PARENT TOOLKIT

5 steps parents can take to protect their child with special needs from bullies:

1. Reach out to the parents of other children in your school whose children are diagnosed with special needs. Form a coalition and begin supporting one another through suggestions and recommendations to the PTA, the School Board, and your local legislature on the topic of bullying and children with special needs.
2. Become familiar with statistics on bullying and children with special needs. Educate your school district, teachers and community on the issue. Bring in speakers to address such topics.
3. Be visible by taking part in community functions and figuring out ways to give visibility to your children. When students with a disability or chronic illness were restricted from participating in school activities, they had a 30% additional risk of being bullied.
4. Demand that any anti-bullying projects adopted by your school district adequately addresses the issues of children with special needs.
5. Write letters to policy-makers on bullying and children with special needs, requesting that federal and state funds be used to expand the research on the topic. Request that anti-bullying programs used in the schools be effective in reducing the vulnerabilities of children with special needs.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- **The Matrix Parents Network**
- **AbilityPath.org**
- **National Center on Bullying Prevention**
- **BrainHighways.com**
- **Best Buddies**
- **Special Olympics**

