

Article 6:

"Keep a Lid on Bullying with a Complaint Box." *Curriculum Review*, Dec 2003, 11.
PaperClip Communications. Infotrac 15 Aug 2004.

<http://0search.epnet.com.library.csuhayward.edu:80/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&an=11735009>

- ¶1 Giving kids an anonymous outlet for reporting incidents of bullying--and then vigorously investigating and acting on their claims--can greatly reduce the problem. That's what Franklin Middle School in Buffalo, NY, discovered this year. Assistant Principal Richard E. Jetter installed a wooden stop sign with the slogan "Bullying stops here!" in the guidance office this fall. He attached a complaint box that only administrators can access.
- ¶2 Teachers have been encouraging students to report everything from name calling to threats. "If you see bullying going on and you don't do anything about it, you're just as guilty," says technology instructor Joseph Stawisuck, who constructed the complaint box.
- ¶3 The kids have responded to the challenge. In the first month, 36 students slipped "bullying complaint forms" through the slot. Some reported being victims of bullies, while others noted incidents they'd seen. "I am just amazed how it's taken off," Principal Dennis A. Priore told the Buffalo News. "It hasn't just been lip service."
- ¶4 A 6th-grader named Stephany says bullying has already been reduced. "Kids like the idea that they don't have to be embarrassed going up to a teacher and saying something," she noted.
- ¶5 Asks Jetter, "Wouldn't it be perfect if a child could just come to school and think about learning because they don't have to worry about anything else?"