



The Peace Connection

New and Improved PeaceBuilders® Web Site Launched

In the year since PeacePartners, Inc. acquired the PeaceBuilders® Program, its primary focus has been on supporting existing PeaceBuilders® schools and school staff.

PeacePartners' efforts have included national contests, personal phone calls, school site visits, and most recently the revision of the PeaceBuilders® web site, www.peacebuilders.com. The web site has been redesigned to be more informative for those just being introduced to the program as well as for staff in existing PeaceBuilders® schools.

The web site includes ideas and activities from schools across North America. Currently, there are descriptions and photos of several creative school projects that were taken during recent site visits by PeacePartners staff. The highlighted projects will be changed on a periodic basis to allow for a greater sharing of activities. To view this section, click on the

LOOK link from the homepage.

Information on PeaceBuilders® research and program evaluation can also be found on the web site.

Incentive and promotional items such as buttons, magnets, stickers, praise note pads, bracelets, posters, pencils, lanyards can be purchased from the web site.

Elementary and middle school program materials as well as additional support materials like the PeaceBuilders® Banish Bullying Guide, a binder containing tools to assess the current level of

bullying, tools for identifying students who are at high risk of bullying or being bullied, and activities for students are available.

Several links from the homepage require a username and password. All licensed schools should have this information but if you cannot locate it, please contact Susan or Asya and they will be happy to provide it for you.



Violence Prevention Program
Santa Clara County
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PeaceBuilders® Kickoff Checklist

The beginning of the school year is a great time for schools to renew their commitment to establishing a peaceful learning environment. Whether it is a school's first year or fifth year using PeaceBuilders®, the following checklist of activities can be used to get the program off to a strong start.

School wide

- ◇ Establish a PeaceBuilders® Committee comprised of school staff, parent volunteers, and other interested individuals.
- ◇ Determine a timeline for implementing peace building themes in the classroom and school wide.
- ◇ Recite the PeaceBuilders® Pledge regularly.
- ◇ Use cooperative games rather than competitive games on the playground.
- ◇ Create and post peace building cues such as signs and posters made by the children around the school.
- ◇ Establish a PeaceCoach program for the playground.

Classrooms

- ◇ Include "Be a PeaceBuilder" in classroom rules.
- ◇ Create a PraiseBoard for the classroom and make praise notes easily accessible for all students.
- ◇ Make your classroom or office a PeaceBuilders® environment by modeling peace building behavior.
- ◇ Use peace building "tips and recipes" for quick reinforcement of PeaceBuilders® skills (see the *Classroom Management* tab in the blue teacher pack).
- ◇ Send home "Good News" postcards.
- ◇ Use the Peace Treaty to help build skills after rules are broken.

Parent Outreach

- ◇ Include information about PeaceBuilders® activities or philosophies in the school's newsletters or bulletins.
- ◇ Present information about PeaceBuilders® to parents at Parent Nights, PTA/PTO meetings, or at other parent events.
- ◇ Invite parents to talk or write to a class about what Peace means to them.

*For additional ideas, see the **Implementation Planning**, **Curriculum Integration**, and **Home Connections** tabs in the *PeaceBuilders® 2001 and Beyond* blue teacher pack.*

PeaceBuilders Materials Revisited

The most successful PeaceBuilders® schools are those which everyone at the school site gets involved with the program - teachers, administrators, classified staff, parents, and school volunteers. However, it is often difficult for classified staff, yard duty, and others to attend PeaceBuilders trainings; therefore, we are including a few simple strategies from the *PeaceBuilders® Staff Manual* and *Leadership Guide* that can be shared with any adult who interacts with children at a school site. The strategies provided are designed to help children reduce anger, feel less threatened and be more receptive to intervention.

First Aid for Dealing with an Angry Child (*Leadership Guide, page 80; Staff Manual, page 13*)

- **Turn Down the Volume - Use a calm, low-pitched voice.**
Yelling or using a high-pitched voice raises the perceived level of threat and danger. Using a calm, low-pitched voice gives adults authority without making threats.
- **Give Choices for cooling off - Offering choices conveys to children that the adult is in control but not threatening.**
Directing someone to go to one place sounds like a threat and can make a person more upset. By giving a young person a choice it helps calm things down. Example: "I see you're angry. You can sit in the back of the room *or* in the office until we talk about this. Which would you prefer, the back of the room or the office?"
- **Use a "when-then-choice" instruction - A when-then choice instruction allows a young person to work in a positive way toward a goal.**
Direct commands feel threatening and can make kids more upset. The structure of a when-then choice reduces cues that signal threat.
Example: "When you can talk to me in a calm voice, then we will figure out what needs to be done."
- **Walk and Talk - walking and talking works better than having a child sit in a chair which can make the child feel trapped.**
While walking, discuss what the child might have felt and thought. Offer possibilities if the child says, "I don't know." Then begin talking about options for the future.
- **Offer choices for making amends - by offering a choice future acts are more likely to be positive and less likely to be angry.**
Example: "You can either write a note or call now to apologize and offer a way to make it up." This intervention reduces the level of fear in the victim, also lessening the chances that the victim will seek revenge.

For additional strategies for school staff, refer to the pocket guides in the *Staff Manual*.

PeaceBuilders® Tips and Recipes

1 Minute

Smile; use eye contact



5 Minute

Have students suggest ways to increase peace

10 Minute

Role-play situations to some problems

30 Minute

Create personal posters to show goals

60 Minute

Create lunchtime activities that include everybody

For additional tips, see the *Classroom Management Section* of your *PeaceBuilders® 2001 and Beyond Teacher Pack*.

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Program Announcements

Peace Building Continues to Grow

Beginning this fall, there are eight new schools in Santa Clara County beginning the PeaceBuilders® program. With these new schools, an additional 4,300 young people will be exposed to the PeaceBuilders philosophies.

We are excited to have the following schools join the program:

- Rogers Elementary / Alum Rock Elementary Union School District
- Dilworth Elementary / Cupertino Union School District
- Franklin Elementary / Franklin-Mckinley School District
- Hammer Montessori / San Jose Unified School District
- Reed Elementary / San Jose Unified School District
- River Glen Elementary / San Jose Unified School District
- Trace Elementary / San Jose Unified School District
- San Miguel Elementary / Sunnyvale School District