



Be a “Bus Bully Buster”

By Barbara Gilmour

We have talked about a lot of ways to help school be a cool, kind place. What about on the bus?

“There are kids on my bus who don’t know how to be Cool, Kind Kids,” said Tanner. Nicole added, “There’s a lot of bullying on my bus.” All the kids agreed.



Our friend Buddy is here with us today. He was bullied when he was younger, especially on the school bus. “I used to be scared to ride my school bus because bigger kids teased me. They wouldn’t let me sit where I wanted, and they always threw my stuff around. They even took my lunch,” Buddy shared.

“That’s awful,” Nicole said. “How uncool,” said Stephen. Tanner agreed. “Some kids think those are cool things to do,” he added.

Rudy said, “I know a lot of kids who are afraid to ride the bus.” “Me, too,” Carmen added. “Kids get picked on, pushed or shoved, or get their stuff taken.” “I see older kids being mean to younger kids, which isn’t kind or cool,” said Nicole. “Are they afraid to pick on a kid their own size?”

Truman got a funny look on his face, and then said, “I guess I’m lucky because no one picks on me. Maybe that’s because I’m so big.” Tanner laughed and said, “Maybe kids are afraid to pick on you.” “Boy, I hope not. I don’t want to be scaring kids,” said Truman.

“Buddy, you said you used to be afraid to ride the bus. Are you still scared of the bus?” wondered Nicole. Buddy thought a minute and told the kids what he had done about the bus bullying. “First, I talked to my parents about it. Then I talked to the driver. He wanted to help, but he has to pay attention to his driving. He can’t always see what the kids are doing behind him.

“My Mom and Dad encouraged me to get some friends together so we could help each other. We call ourselves the ‘Bus Bully Busters.’ We stick up for each other and keep the bullies from picking on us. And, we help keep the younger kids from being bullied, too.”



“Very cool,” said Stephen, “That’s a great solution.”

Rudy asked, “How do you keep those kids from acting like bullies?”

“We say, ‘You will have more friends if you are nicer,’” Buddy shared.

“And, we help them learn that bullying is uncool.” “That’s really cool,” Tanner added.

Nicole asked, “Is it really working?” “Yes. All the buses at my school now have ‘Bus Bully Busters.’ The younger kids like having older kids be their ‘BBB.’ The older kids feel good about helping others. They’re learning that being kind is really cool.”

Truman got excited and said, “I know how I can help other kids, and they won’t be afraid of me! I’ll be a ‘Bus Bully Buster,’ too.

Tanner added, “Let’s all be ‘Bus Bully Busters.’”

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner’s grandmom, is the creator and developer of the Tanner’s Manners: Be a “Cool Kind Kid” Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning “Cool Kind Kid” Audio CD. She also writes the Children’s Manners Blog, offering tips for teaching your children manners. <http://childrensmanners.blogspot.com>. The “Cool Kind Kid” team is committed to helping kids reject bullying by offering them the social skills tools they need to redefine “cool.” © Cool Kind Kid. 866-KID-KIND. www.CoolKindKid.com