The WITS Programs

The evidence-based WITS and WITS LEADS Programs bring together schools, families and communities to create responsive environments that help elementary school children deal with bullying and peer victimization.



The WITS Primary Program

- Stands for Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out and Seek help
- Teaches Kindergarten to Grade 3 children to make safe and positive choices about peer conflict
- Provides a common language that children and the adults in their environment can use to talk about and respond to peer victimization

Е

Α

D

S

The WITS LEADS Program

- Stands for Look and listen, Explore points of view, Act, Did it work? and Seek help
- Teaches problem-solving strategies to help Grade 4-6 children deal with conflict and stay safe
- Provides developmentally appropriate strategies and resources to older elementary students so they can become WITS Leaders in their school

Both programs use a literature-based curriculum, integrated with provincial and territorial learning objectives, to bring the WITS message into schools. They involve families and community leaders to create responsive communities for the prevention of peer victimization. Teachers will find it is easy to weave the children's literaturebased lesson plans through the Kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculums. I highly recommend WITS as a bullying prevention program for educators, parents, community members and students.

> DR. MARY HALL, SAFE SCHOOLS MANITOBA







Need help?

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at <u>wits@uvic.ca</u> or contact us by phone toll-free at 1-855-858-8766.



The WITS[®] Programs







Creating responsive communities for the prevention of peer victimization



www.witsprogram.ca

Roles and resources for everyone

The WITS Programs recognize that preventing peer victimization in young children requires more than simple acronyms and social skills. It requires a community of dedicated people, including educators, families, community leaders and children, working together to make a difference. The WITS Programs website, <u>www.witsprogram.ca</u>, provides special resources for each of these groups, including a growing number of French language resources.

It's not just the role of the police officer, school counselor, teacher, mom or dad. It's all of us working together to make our schools and our communities safer and comfortable places for the kids to be.

CONSTABLE JULIE CHANIN, RCMP OFFICER



WITS for Schools

Designed *for* educators *by* educators, the WITS Programs enhance learning environments, not workloads. In this section, educators can find lesson plans and resources to help them integrate WITS into daily classroom life.



WITS for Community Leaders

Requiring only a small time commitment, WITS empowers emergency services personnel, high school students, elders and other role models to be five-minute heroes. In this section, community leaders find tips and resources for their role.



WITS for Families

Although WITS begins at school, parents play a crucial role, teaching children to use WITS beyond school walls. In this section, parents learn about peer conflict, how to talk to their child about it and how to support WITS at home and school.



WITS for Kids

In this section, filled with interactive, kidfriendly content, younger children learn to use their WITS to deal with peer conflict and older children become WITS Leaders, equipped with more complex problem-solving strategies.

More free resources you can use at www.witsprogram.ca

- Book Lists These lists feature French and English children's books, including many with Aboriginal content, that focus on peer conflict and helping others. Associated lesson plans are great for parents and teachers.
- Online Teacher Accreditation Program Educators can become Accredited WITS Programs Teachers and learn how to effectively implement the programs by completing this 90-minute training module.
- Online Training Program for Community Leaders This hour-long training teaches emergency services personnel, high school students, elders and other community representatives about their role with WITS.
- WITS Toolkit for Parents This collection of practical resources helps parents bring WITS into their daily
 activities at home and teaches them to respond effectively to children's reports of conflict and victimization.

