

### Evidence-based prevention of bullying and cyberbullying with the KiVa antibullying program

#### Christina Salmivalli University of Turku, Finland

















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- 5,4 million people
- ~ 2400 schools providing basic education (grades 1-9)
- Almost exclusively
  public schools





StatLink and http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/141844475532



# School is not only about academic performance...









### NOT feeling safe at school, % (Finland, 2009)



6



Correlates significantly with being bullied by peers













- A widely used definition: Systematic aggressive behavior against a person who finds it difficult to defend him/herself against the perpetrator(s)
  - Proactive aggression
  - Repeated nature of attacks and power differential are central features





- Most often verbal abuse, public ridicule
  - BUT many other forms as well: physical, social isolation, rumor-spreading, cyberbullying, …



## Has bullying moved from schoolyard to cyberspace?







KiVa









6%



**6%** 



2-3%



## Students targeted by different forms of bullying



#### A child who is bullied is typically targeted in multiple ways

**KiVa** 

# Consequences of being bullied and bullying others

- Well-documented in research
- Being bullied
  - anxiety, depression, loneliness
  - risk for depression, low self-esteem & difficulty to trust other people in adulthood
- Bullying others
  - learning to use aggression as a means to get what one wants
  - risk for criminal offending in adulthood
- Both bullying and victimization, "bully-victims"
  - a small group, but often the most maladjusted

**KiVa** 



- Universal phenomenon; at least 10-15% of children and adolescents worldwide are systematic victims of bullying by their peers at school
- Much variation across countries, schools, classrooms...



Why is bullying so frequent?

- Status, power, admiration needs of those who bully
- Vulnerability of those who are targeted
- A group that fuels bullying, or allows it to happen















The role of bystanders in bullying

- Despite their anti-bullying attitudes, many students behave in ways which maintain, even fuel the bullying behavior
  - standing by, not intervening
  - reinforcing the bully
  - assisting the bully





• Participant roles (Salmivalli et al., 1996)



The responses of peer bystanders *matter* 

- Individual effects: short term
  - the defended victims are better adjusted than the undefended ones (Sainio, Veenstra, Huitsing, & Salmivalli, 2010)
- Individual effects: long term
  - the most negative memory related to bullying is often "no-one cared" (Teräsahjo & Salmivalli, 2000)







#### Victims and their defenders: A dyadic approach

International Journal of Behavioral Development I-8 © The Author(s) 2010 Reprints and permissions: sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0165025410378068 ijbd.sagepub.com



#### Miia Sainio,<sup>1</sup> René Veenstra,<sup>1,2</sup> Gijs Huitsing,<sup>2</sup> and Christina Salmivalli<sup>1</sup>

#### Abstract

This study focused on the dyadic defending relationships of victimized children in grades 3, 4, and 5 (N = 7481 children from 356 school classes, mean ages 10–12 years). Most of the victims (72.3%) had at least one defender. Being defended was positively related to victims' adjustment and social status. Analyses on victim–defender dyads showed that they were usually same-gender relationships. Victims usually liked their defenders and perceived them as popular, although the latter effect was weaker. Also other classmates perceived defenders as popular, indicating that defenders enjoy a high status among their peers in general.

#### Keywords

bullying, defending, dyad, social networks, victimization



The responses of peer bystanders *matter* 

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- Classroom level:
  - In classrooms where students tend to reinforce the bully, rather than support the bullied classmates
    - bullying occurs more frequently (Salmivalli, Voeten & Poskiparta, 2011)
    - vulnerable (e.g., socially anxious) children are more likely to end up as targets of bullying (Kärnä, Voeten, Poskiparta, & Salmivalli, 2010)





Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology, 40(5), 668–676, 2011 Copyright © Taylor & Francis Group, LLC ISSN: 1537-4416 print/1537-4424 online DOI: 10.1080/15374416.2011.597090



#### Bystanders Matter: Associations Between Reinforcing, Defending, and the Frequency of Bullying Behavior in Classrooms

Christina Salmivalli University of Turku, University of Stavanger, and Edith Cowan University

> Marinus Voeten Radboud University Nijmegen

> > Elisa Poskiparta University of Turku





Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
	b	SE	b	SE	b	SE	b	SE
Intercept	.42	.02	.42	.02	.41	.02	.44	.05
Age	.00	.01	.00	.01	.00	.01	01	.01
Boy	.16***	.02	.16***	.02	.16***	.02	.16***	.02
Immigrant	.14	.08	.14	.08	.14	.08	.13	.08
Empathy	.01	.02	.01	.02	.01	.02	.01	.02
Attitudes	22***	.02	22***	.02	22***	.02	21***	.02
Class Size			04	.03	06	.03	01	.02
Defending					49***	.16	35*	.14
Reinforcing							2.05	.27
$R^2$ Within	.07***	*	.07***	*	.07***	ĸ	.07**	*
$R^2$ Between			.03		.10*		.53**	*
BIC			13,606.	.68	13,595.	91	13,497.	29

TABLE 4 Summary of Multilevel Regression Analyses for Predicting Bullying

*Note:* N = 6,764 (within), 385 (between). BIC = Bayesian Information Criterion.



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MERRILL-PALMER QUARTERLY, VOL. 56, NO. 3

#### Vulnerable Children in Varying Classroom Contexts

Bystanders' Behaviors Moderate the Effects of Risk Factors on Victimization

Antti Kärnä University of Turku, Finland Marinus Voeten Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands Elisa Poskiparta and Christina Salmivalli University of Turku, Finland





 Whether an individual risk factor leads to being bullied depends on the classroom context





In order to reduce bullying...

- We do not necessarily need to change the victims, making them "less vulnerable"
- Influencing the behavior of *bystanders* can reduce the rewards gained by the bullies and consequently, their motivation to bully in the first place
- However, *the victims* need to feel that they are heard and helped by the adults at school
- *The bullies* need to be confronted for their unacceptable behavior



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- However, the victims need to feel that they are heard and helped by the adults at school
- The bullies need to be confronted for their unacceptable behavior
  INDICATED ACTIONS



# An anti-bullying program should include...

- …something for all students
  → universal actions
- ...something for bullies and victims in particular  $\rightarrow$  indicated actions







- The Finnish government decided that bullying prevention is a priority
- 2006: contract between the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture & the University of Turku
  - development of a nationwide, research-based antibullying program
  - evaluation of the program
  - implementation of the program across the country (since 2009)





### KiVa™ universal and indicated actions


# The topics of Unit 1 student lessons

1. Lets' get to know each other! 2. Emotions 3. Our class – everyone is included! 4. Difference is richness 5. There is no bullying at a KiVa school 6. We will not join in on bullying 7. The bullied child needs your support 8. I will not be bullied! 9. Literature lesson 10. The KiVa contract





# The topics of Unit 2 student lessons

1. Respect is for everyone 2. In a group 3. Recognize bullying 4. Hidden forms of bullying 5. Consequences of bullying 6. Group involvement in bullying 7. Confronting bullying as a group 8. What to do if I get bullied? 9. KiVa School – leť s do it together! 10. How are we doing?





## Activities included in student lessons





Booklet assignment

1			
10		9	
X			
	-	2	

Short film

- Creating awareness of how the group might maintain and fuel bullying
- Enhancing empathy
- Providing safe strategies to support victimized peers



### KiVa™ universal and indicated actions



#### **KiVa online games: closely connected to student lessons**

- Repeating & testing of what has been learnt during the lessons
  KNOW
  - Learning to take action
- Students go around in a virtual school and come to challenging situations where they have to decide what to say and do
  - Motivation

I DO

 Students reflect on their own behavior (e.g., how they have done with following the KiVa rules) and get feedback



#### I CAN / Unit 2







*Educational Psychology*, 2016 Vol. 36, No. 3, 595–611, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01443410.2015.1066758

#### Implementing the KiVa antibullying program: recognition of stable victims

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(Received 23 February 2015; final version received 24 June 2015)

Teachers do not always recognise students who are victimised by their peers. In this study, we examined the recognition of stable victims in 76 schools beginning to implement the KiVa antibullying programme. We focused on 348 victims (9–15 years) who reported victimisation at the pretest and still at wave 2, after five months of programme implementation. Only 24% of these stable victims received the attention of school personnel during the school year. Multilevel logistic regression analyses revealed that male victims were recognised more often than female victims, but only in elementary school level. Peer reputation as a victim, as well as telling an adult about one's plight increased the likelihood of recognition by school personnel, whereas bullying others (in addition to being victimised) decreased it. The study emphasises the importance of encouraging school personnel to put more effort in reaching the victimised students.

Keywords: antibullying programme; indicated intervention; recognition; victimization











Newsletter to parents (www)

Parents' guide (www/print)

Material for back-to-school night

KVW Koulu VANHEMPIEN OPAS



### KiVa™ universal and indicated actions





Posters Highly visible vests for recess supervisors (in Finland, teachers)







### KiVa™ universal and indicated actions







### KiVa™ universal and indicated actions







Osuus <u>alakoulun</u> oppilaista, jotka ovat kiusanneet muita tai kokeneet tuleensa kiusatuksi kaksi tai kolme kertaa kuukaudessa tai useammin



#### Monitoring tool: Annual school-based feedback

Osuus <u>yläkoulun</u> oppilaista, jotka ovat kiusanneet muita tai kokeneet tuleensa kiusatuksi *kaksi tai kolme* kertaa kuukaudessa tai useammin



Lisätietoa kysymyksistä: "Miten usein olet kiusannut koulussa toista oppilasta viimeisen parin kuukauden aikana?" ja "Miten usein sinua on kiusattu koulussa parin viime kuukauden aikana?" Vastausvaihtoehdot: "ei lainkaan", "kerran tai kaksi", "2–3 kertaa kuukaudessa", "noin kerran viikossa" tai "useita kertoja viikossa".

#### Toisten kiusaaminen ja kiusatuksi joutuminen 2014



Osuudet eri luokka-asteiden oppilaista, jotka ovat kiusanneet muita kaksi tai kolme kertaa kuukaudessa tai useammin

Lisätietoa kysymyksestä: "Miten usein olet kiusannut koulussa toista oppilasta viimeisen parin kuukauden

Can we influence the bystanders?

- Probably easier than changing those who bully!
- Critical individual characteristics to be targeted
  - empathy towards peers who are bullied
  - self-efficacy with respect to helping
  - positive outcome expectations re: helping
- Critical group factors to be targeted
  - group norms re: bullying
    - teacher-imposed norms; peer group norms
    - "pluralistic ignorance"

KiVa

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  - "pluralistic ignorance"

## How does it feel to be bullied? Emotion cards





## How does it feel to be bullied? Emotion cards





## How does it feel to be bullied? Scene from the online game





















Can we influence the bystanders?

- Probably easier than changing those who bully!
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  - self-efficacy with respect to helping
  - positive outcome expectations re: helping
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  - group norms re: bullying
  - "pluralistic ignorance"

### We can do something to help! Providing safe strategies to support victimized peers



Halposti harmostuvo tyttö

#### Brainstorming...









### We can do something to help! Mobilizing bystander support

 Discussions with the child who is bullied and with the bullying children (KiVa team)

- Utilizing prosocial, high-status peers (classroom teacher)
  - "your help is needed"
  - $\rightarrow$  self-efficacy, positive outcome expectations



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KiVa



- Children do not individually approve of bullying, but they infer from peers' behavior that peers think bullying is acceptable, even fun
- Important: showing one's antibullying attitudes in public



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What do we actually think of bullying?



How can we make that visible?





Message to all parents: Even if your child is neither being bullied nor bullying others, he/she may be involved in other ways

Information newsletter to parents (www)

Parents' guide (www/print)

Back-to-school night



VANHEMPIEN OPA



#### **Does KiVa work?**



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#### Changes in being bullied by different forms during one school year, RCT 2007-2008



### KiVa influenced also bystander emotions, cognitions, and behaviors

- Increased empathy toward victimized
- Influenced children's antibullying attitudes, efficacy, and effort to defend the victims
- Decreased reinforcing and assisting the bully – Kärnä et al. (2011)



- reduced students' social anxiety and had a positive impact on their perceptions of peer climate (Williford et al, 2011)
- positive effects on school liking and academic motivation (Salmivalli, Garandeau & Veenstra, 2012)







- children's perceptions on their teachers' attitudes and how well the teacher is able to do to reduce bullying
- teachers self-evaluated competence to tackle bullying



Nationwide implementation: Proportion of students who have been bullied / who are bullying others repeatedly, Finnish KiVa schools 2009-2016

























- "Theory of change" behind KiVa: The program makes bullying behavior less rewarding for the perpetrators by changing bystander responses to bullying
- Putting the theory into test...

# Are changes in bullying mediated by changes in bystander responses?



#### **Opening the "black box"**



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### KiVa: Mechanisms of change Saarento et al., 2015

- Target sample of 8248 students from 429
  classrooms from 78 schools
- Final sample of 7269 students from 387 classrooms from 77 schools
  - Grade levels 4 to 6 (10-12 years of age)
- Data collected in May 2007, December 2007, May 2008











- Yes, changes in bullying were mediated by bystander responses
  - As a result of KiVa, children first started observing more defending and less reinforcing among their classmates, and consequently, reduced their bullying behavior
- Changes in bullying were also mediated by children's perceptions of teacher attitudes
- The relative importance of peers vs. teachers across age groups?





- Peer bystanders play a significant role in bullying
- By changing bystander responses we can succesfully reduce bullying and increase the targeted students' well-being
- Cyberbullying is not a separate phenomenon it can be succesfully reduced with a general bullying prevention program



#### Read more about KiVa: <u>www.kivaprogram.net</u>

#### Find us on Facebook: KiVa antibullying program



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