

GREAT Families Program. All programs were pilot tested in several schools during the spring of 2001. The GREAT Students Program is a curriculum composed of 20 sessions taught in the classroom by program staff. Topics include perspective taking, listening, developing friendships, managing conflict, and solving problems in the family and the community. The program creates opportunities for students to interact, develop social cognitive problem-solving skills, appreciate diversity, and expand cultural sensitivity in an environment of respect and understanding through non-competitive games, small group work, role-playing, and guided discussions.

The GREAT Teacher Program is designed to reduce tolerance of aggression and bullying in the classroom and to improve teacher management of such behavior. The curriculum promotes teacher awareness of bullying and facilitates the implementation of strategies for preventing bullying behavior, supporting multicultural understanding, assisting students who are the target of aggression, and responding to crisis.

The GREAT Families Program is designed for youth who have been identified as demonstrating aggressive or bullying behavior and are rated by teachers to be influential among their peers. Teachers will identify between 10 and 20 students per school (depending on the size of schools). Themes addressed by the Family Program are home-school partnership, parental monitoring, rule setting and discipline, coping skills, self-control, child-parent communication, problem-solving skills, and youth planning of career and life goals.

The results of this study will increase our scientific understanding regarding the implementation and effectiveness of multi-faceted violence prevention interventions that target middle-school students, their teachers, and their families. The results of this study will be used by CDC and other agencies to make recommendations about violence prevention interventions and to set priorities for future research. It is also anticipated that the education community and policymakers will use the information from this study to plan programs and make decisions regarding violence prevention interventions in middle schools. Additionally, participating students, teachers, and families will benefit from experiencing programs that represent the cutting edge of violence prevention and intervention.

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