

# BYSTANDER QUIZ



Source: Adler, M., Katz, A., Minotti, J., Slaby, R., Storey, K., (2008). *Eyes on Bullying, What Can You Do*. Available at [www.eyesonbullying.org/pdfs/toolkit.pdf](http://www.eyesonbullying.org/pdfs/toolkit.pdf)



Peer victimization rarely involves just an aggressor and a victim. There are usually bystanders, and depending on how those bystanders respond, they contribute to either the solution or the problem.

Initiate a discussion with your child about the important role bystanders play by taking this short quiz and talking out the answers.

## TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Bystanders are those who usually watch when kids are in conflict or being bullied.
2. Most children who watch bullying behaviours feel uncomfortable.
3. Most children who watch bullying behaviours do nothing to try to stop it.
4. Bystanders who just silently watch bullying behaviours usually make things worse.
5. Bystanders who laugh at or cheer on bullying usually make things worse.
6. Kids who try to stop the bullying often make things better.
7. Sometimes responsible adults don't stop bullying.
8. Both children and adults can learn to become helpful bystanders who work to stop bullying.
9. Sometimes I have been a silent bystander.



1. *True.* Child bystanders were present in 85% or more of bullying incidents in observation studies of children in playgrounds and classrooms.
2. *True.* Between 80% and 90% of bystanders reported that watching bullying was unpleasant and made them feel uncomfortable. Many children also felt they should step in to help a child who was being bullied.
3. *True.* Bystanders stood up for victims only 10% to 19% of the time. Bystanders were silent witnesses 54% of the time and joined bullying 21% of the time.
4. *True.* Even when bystanders simply watched bullying without trying to stop it, they made things worse by providing an audience for the aggressive child. Bullying lasted longer when more bystanders were present and when bystanders did nothing to stop it.
5. *True.* When bystanders laughed at or cheered on bullying, they encouraged it to continue.
6. *True.* When bystanders intervened to stand up for the victim, they were successful in stopping the bullying more than 50% of the time—usually within the first 10 seconds.
7. *True.* Adults are often not aware of bullying because it usually happens in areas with little or no adult supervision, such as bathrooms, hallways, playgrounds, cafeterias. That is why it is important for children to seek help and report an incident to an adult.
8. *True.* When we discuss ways to be helpful bystanders, we can be part of the solution.
9. *True.* We all have been silent at a time when we should have sought help or stood up to a person who bullies. What can we do when we are faced with this situation again?

## ANSWER KEY