

RISKY BUSINESS



**A PROGRAM FOR
THE PREVENTION
OF BULLYING,
HARASSMENT
AND VIOLENCE**

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Unique Programming for Adults and Teens for the Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Violence

Dear Colleague:

We want to share with you the launching of two very effective and unique, evidence-based on-line internet programs — **Risky Business for Middle School** and **Risky Business for Adults** — both aimed at the prevention of bullying, harassment and violence. These two programs are on-line training videos, one for middle school students and a second, expanded version with more background and training, for teachers, parents and professionals. The programs are backed up with group training sessions and include scales which can be used to diagnose and alert your school to potential areas of risk.

About the Programs

In school, students watch unscripted video vignettes, each of which deals with an aspect of risk for peer aggression. The videos form a continuous story-line that help teens learn how to 'read' their peer group members by identifying typical group roles and patterns that occur in all teen groups. Adolescents are also taught three distinct skills which help to take them from accurate perception of their peers through to independent and self-protective action. In-school role playing exercises throughout the year reinforce the effectiveness of the model. These role-plays are conducted by teachers and mental health professionals who are provided with our "**Risky Business Activity Guide**" lesson plans, a teaching guide that follows the Universal Curriculum Standards.

The second program, **Risky Business for Adults**, intensifies the positive impact on the overall school culture by providing on-line training modules for adults (administrators, teachers and parents). Adults see the same videos the students watch but with the addition of a series of adult mini-trainings that explain in greater depth why middle school students behave the way they do. The focus of this training is to help the adults understand adolescent brain development, cognitive functioning, the separation-individuation process and aggressive behavior, including bullying, sexual harassment and violence.

The advantages for a school to using both on-line programs:

1. The adults and students are working from the same "play-book" using the same terms and concepts to promote empathy and reduce school risk.
2. The programs measure and give immediate feedback to students and adults on how they perceive others and their own empathy patterns.
3. The on-line training is standardized and does away with the thorny technical problems of fidelity.
4. An entire school grade can be trained over 4 class periods.
5. Teachers, professionals and parents can participate in the on-line trainings at any time of their choosing, making the program convenient for the busy professional.

Our programs are based on developmental and neurodevelopmental theory. The adult version provides the teacher or professional with numerous examples and in-depth explanations for the concepts provided. The middle school version offers adolescents catchy terms and easy to understand techniques that they can take with them into the hallways and playgrounds. These programs are upgraded versions of the RESPECT Program, an evidence-based social-emotional program for the prevention of all forms of peer aggression. RESPECT has been used by major school districts across the country over the past 15 years including major US cities such as Philadelphia, New York City, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and San Diego.

To learn more about the Risky Business Programs go to **RiskyBusinessOnline.Com** and select '**Brochure**.'

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