

# Some Myths and Facts about Violence and Tips on How You Can Help Prevent It

**Myth:** Kids who fight well—the ones who are good with their hands—are safest.

**Fact:** The safest, most popular kids are problem solvers. They know how to use their minds and mouths to solve problems, rather than their fists. Kids who fight a lot—even if they’re good at it eventually run into someone who is armed.

**Myth:** In order to gain respect from peers, boys have to be willing to fight.

**Fact:** Youths who are neither bullies nor aggressors—who are called problem solvers by peers—are the most successful and popular kids in school.

**Tip:** Encourage schools to teach youth about conflict resolution, to set up peer mediators, and to teach youths the truth about violence.

*Choose Peace/Stop Violence is a community movement of concerned Broward County residents and agencies dedicated to creating safe, healthy and thriving environments for our children and families.*



# Choose Peace Stop Violence

*Your Choice, Your Actions, Your Life*

What Families Can Do to Prevent Youth Violence



For More Information Call (954) 462-4850 (ext. 141)

[www.choosepeacestopviolence.org](http://www.choosepeacestopviolence.org)





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*Y*outh violence and victimization has become a growing concern for our entire community. Whether it is bullying, gang activity, date rape, sexual assault or youth crime and juvenile delinquency, it is affecting our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

- Act as role models, settle conflicts nonviolently.
- Take an active role in their children's school; talk regularly with teachers; volunteer.
- Maintain two-way communication with their children; talk with them about violence they may have witnessed.
- Do not keep firearms or keep them safely stored and locked up with ammunition stored separately.
- Initiate or participate in community or school violence prevention groups.
- Monitor/supervise their children's use of the internet, television, reading material, movies, music, and video games.
- Seek out support groups to improve parenting skills and manage anger, if needed.
- Establish and enforce household rules and reward positive behavior.
- Demand involvement in violence prevention programs initiated by schools and communities and in disciplinary actions imposed on their own children.
- Supervise the activities of their children; know their schedule and their friends.
- Urge their children to participate in organized after-school activities provided by responsible groups.
- Practice zero tolerance for bullying in the family and take proactive steps to eliminate bullying in school.
- Provide foster homes and safe havens for abused children.
- Encourage community service.

*This information was excerpted from the American Medical Association's "Connecting the Dots to Prevent Youth Violence: A Training and Outreach Guide for Physicians and Other Health Professionals."*

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