



Playground Leadership and Peer Mediation Program

OBJECTIVES:

- ☺ *make the playground a fairer and safer place for children*
- ☺ *reduce the incidences of bullying*
- ☺ *empower children with conflict resolution skills*
- ☺ *create an ethos of tolerance and respect in the school community*
- ☺ *encourage & develop positivity, good communication & problem solving skills in children.*
- ☺ *help children in the forming and keeping of friendships*

BUZ Rangers is a program that is offered to schools as part of the “Build-Up Zone” approach to social skills and pastoral care. Nurture Works staff are available to attend schools and train teachers and students in Playground Leadership and Peer Mediation and help the school set up the “BUZ Rangers” program. BUZ Rangers is more than just a program, it creates a culture i.e. a “Build-Up Zone”.

COST: \$660 for the two day training program (plus travel costs)
- includes cost for the training material, student’s manuals and badges.

PEER MEDIATION DEFINITION:

Peer mediation is a process that enables children to solve conflicts or fights with the assistance of a third person or persons “mediator” to assist them in finding an agreeable solution that creates a win-win situation.

Peer Mediation is:

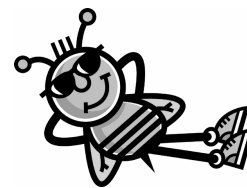
- Voluntary (no child should be forced into it)
- Agreed to by both parties (or it won’t work)
- Confidential (unless there are safety or legal issues)
- Focuses on the future (looks forward positively)
- Has a no blame approach (resolution is limited when blame is apportioned)
- Does not promote punishment or revenge (It is a positive form of discipline)

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BUZ Rangers



The Mediation Guidelines:

- Ask person is asked “Do you want to sort it out?”
- One person speaks at a time – tells the story one at a time
- Each person is encouraged to listen without interrupting
- Name calling, shouting, hitting and swearing are not accepted
- Each person is encourage talking about feelings and to “I messages”

The Peer Mediation Process (for the mediator)

1. **ASK** - Ask each person if they want to sort it out.
2. **STORY** - Invite each person to tell their story one at a time.
3. **FEELINGS** - Encourage them to talk about how they felt about what happened.
(They can use “I” Messages - “I felt..... when.....”)
4. **LISTEN** - Each person listens to the other without interrupting.
5. **PROBLEM** - Help them define the problem.
(Also see if there might be other problems)
6. **OPTIONS** - Ask them what ideas they have to solve the problem.
(They can make a list of options)
7. **CHOOSE** - Get them to choose an option they both agree on.
8. **FIX** - Do it! Fix the problem using the agreed option.
9. **THANKS** - Thank them for both for their effort.
10. **CHECK** - Follow up to see if things are better.

The mediator (BUZ Ranger)

- remains neutral
- needs to know the steps in the mediation process
- understands and explain the guidelines
- works in pairs

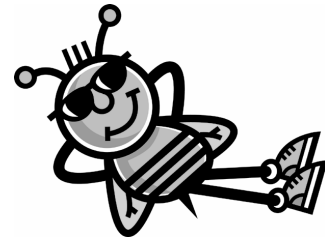
Qualities of a BUZ Ranger:

- A good listener
- Able to feel for others (empathy)
- Able to remain neutral (not take sides)
- Likes to help others (but not take over)
- A creative thinker and problem solver
- A good facilitator (helps others to work it out)
- Willing to put time into it
- Able to be confidential



3.

BUZ Rangers



Needs:

A place to carry out meetings with kids and mediators - Maybe a designated "Build Up Zone" or "Haven"

At least 2 teachers trained in peer mediation with the children (plus parent volunteers (optional))

Approximately 20 students to train as BUZ Rangers (Peer Mediators) ranging from years 5 to 7.

Can be varied from school to school

Staff Coordinators

The coordinating team for BUZ Rangers should be made up of at least two staff.

The coordinator's tasks are as follows:

- assist in the setting up and running of the program in the school
- oversee selection of BUZ Rangers
- participate in initial training
- assist in ongoing training of BUZ Rangers
- keep the school community informed of the implementation and progress of the program
- draw up rosters for BUZ Rangers
- be available to help with difficult cases
- mentor the BUZ Rangers in their ongoing role
- convene regular meetings with BUZ Rangers
- Help create other opportunities for BUZ Rangers to help build community in the school

Peer Mediation & the school MSB & Discipline Policy:

Peer mediation is complimentary.

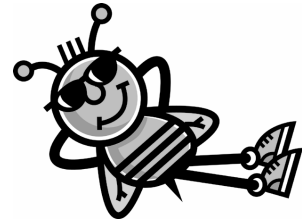
If children are in dispute or have had a fight they could be offered the choice of sorting it out (resolving it) through the mediation process. If they are prepared to work towards a peaceful win/win resolution of conflict there is no need for consequences to be applied.

Discipline:

Discipline is far more effective when it helps a child choose right from wrong rather than forcing them to act in a certain way. Discipline should help a child to learn what is the 'right' thing to do. If a child learns to resolve conflict in peaceful ways this is a desired outcome that punitive forms of discipline have limitations in achieving.



BUZ Rangers



BUZ Ranger training: The participants will gain skills in:

- Effective communication (including speaking and listening)
- Empathy (being able to feel for another)
- Feelings management
- Group cooperation and teamwork
- Self confidence
- Creative thinking and problem solving
- Conflict resolution - mediation
- Friendship making
- Bully-proofing
- Making Build-Up Zones (Buzology)

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