

Resisting Bullying: Response-Based Narratives of the Victims and their families

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Peer victimization is a common experience for school-aged children. It has severe consequences for the children who have experienced repeated bullying. Little research has been devoted to studying the experiences and responses of the victims' and their families' in the bullying situations. Victims are frequently simply portrayed as unable to defend themselves.

Response-based approach moves beyond solely looking at the effects of bullying on victims. A response-based approach provides a context where the participants can elucidate their resistance to peer victimization. The victims are able to give rich descriptions of the skills and knowledge they have used to hold on to their values. By investigating the actions and responses of the victims, response-based research develops a deeper understanding of the victim's identity. This more in-depth understanding allows us to move beyond the simplistic and one-dimensional view of victims currently portrayed in the literature. It also allows for the victims to acknowledge their own agency. By doing so, we hope the victims can begin to view themselves as capable of changing the circumstances they are in.

This presentation will explore the use of response-based narratives to examine the experiences of the victims of peer-victimization and their families. By using this type of framework, we will examine the victims of bullying through a new lens. This new perspective reframes the helpless, powerless victims into agents who have responded to bullying. By further elucidating the resistance of victims, we can begin to understand which skills and knowledge have assisted children in responding to the aggression of their peers.