

# January 26-30 Is No Name-Calling Week

When people think of bullying, they sometimes think only of kids being pushed around. But being called hurtful names is a kind of bullying too. Sometimes being called names can hurt almost as much as being hit or shoved. Maybe the name-caller thought the names were funny, but name-calling is not funny at all to the person who is being called those names.



To help make kids aware of how much name-calling can hurt, schools all over the U.S. are planning to mark No Name-Calling Week January 26-30.

No Name-Calling Week started in 2004. The program was inspired by a novel for kids called *The Misfits*. The story is about four best friends who are teased at school about their height, their weight, what they say, and how they look. The friends run for the school's student council and say if they are elected, they will try to stop all name-calling at school. They lose the election but convince their principal to have a No Name-Calling Day to try to stop teasing.

## NEWS WORD BOX

convince inspired  
teased aware novel  
student council

Many students in the U.S. report being teased at school. Last year during No Name-Calling Week, almost all of the sixth graders at one New Jersey school said they had been bullied. The goal of No Name-Calling Week is for students and teachers to talk about how calling people names can be hurtful.

## IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

- Place a giant cardboard T-shirt outside the school gym or cafeteria with a headline that reads, "Sign your name here if you've ever been bullied."
- Make bracelets to represent a commitment to not call names.
- Create a "Kindness Chain." Each link on the chain explains something kind that one student has done for another during No Name-Calling Week.

## THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

There is an old saying, "*Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.*"  
Do you agree with that saying?