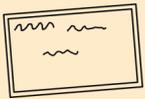


Sticks and stones

Objective:

To highlight the power that everyone has to intervene in bullying situations.

Materials:



Whiteboard or
Flip-chart paper



Marker pens



Source: Adapted from Animus Association (2016). LISTEN! What children have to tell us about bullying and safety at school. Produced in the frame of the EU Daphne project “Early identification and prevention of bullying in school setting, JUST/2013/DAP/ AG/5372.

Method:

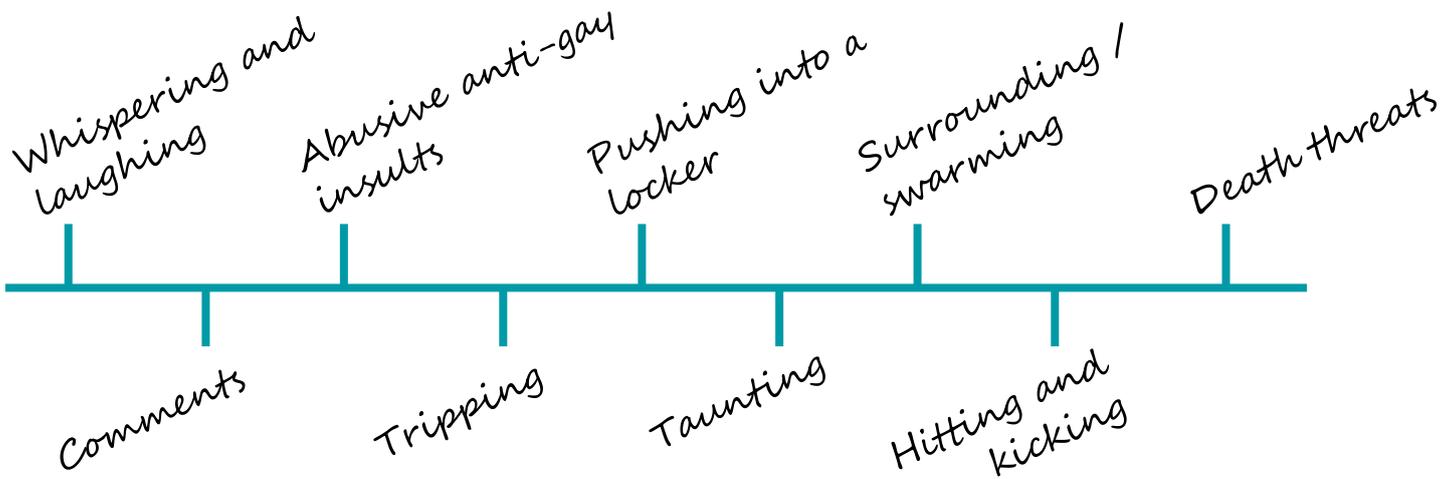
- Read the following case study to students:

At school, a group of students began whispering and laughing about a boy in the school who they thought was gay. They began making comments when they walked past him. Soon they started using abusive anti-gay insults.

By the end of the month they had taken their harassment to another level, tripping him when he walked by and pushing him into a locker while they taunted him. Over the next month they increased the seriousness of their attacks – they surrounded him and two boys held his arms while the others hit and kicked him.

Eventually one of the boys threatened to kill the boy. At this point another student overheard the threat and the police were contacted.

- Ask your students if something similar could happen at their school? How do they think a situation like this could affect the entire school?
- Tell the students that they have been discussing a situation that started out as ‘whispering and laughing’ and became more intense, escalating to violence.
- Draw a straight line on flip-chart paper or a whiteboard. Put ‘whispering and laughing’ at one end and ‘death threats’ at the other end (see *diagram over page*).



- Write the following questions on the whiteboard :
 1. Why do you think this situation, which at first might have seemed harmless, progressed into violence?
 2. At what point on the continuum do you think it would be easiest for someone to intervene?
 3. What would be some possible ways to intervene at different points on the continuum?
- Divide students into groups to answer the three questions.

Find out more...
involving other agencies
[www.bullyingfree.nz/
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involving-other-agencies
-and-media/](http://www.bullyingfree.nz/responding-to-bullying/involving-other-agencies-and-media/)

