



50 Poplar Place  
New Rochelle, NY 10805  
1-917-699-1196 or [info@bigappleplayback.com](mailto:info@bigappleplayback.com)  
[www.bigappleplayback.com](http://www.bigappleplayback.com)

***Keep the Peace! An Interactive Theatre Anti-bullying Program for K-12***

**Playback Theatre programs for Elementary/Middle/High Schools**

**Residency model**

If there is interest from the principal and guidance staff, we see the possibility of enhancing and deepening existing anti-bullying initiatives and building empathy through Playback Theatre.

BAPT offers a program in which we train a group of students and then include them as actors in performances for other students.

In our experience it's preferable with middle or high school students to use this latter model, for two reasons: one, audience members relate more readily to actors of their own age, and there is less initial resistance to overcome; and the core training group gains in-depth knowledge of the topics of bullying, harassment, and the accompanying topic of diversity. This deeper experience is likely to empower them as individuals (see student comments below) and will lead to a positive influence on other students.

Below is an outline of this model:

**Playback Theatre Residency on Bullying and Sexual Harassment**

**Goals:**

To build awareness and empowerment in relation to bullying and sexual harassment in the school community. The core training group will gain Playback Theatre skills as well as becoming educated about the issues of bullying and sexual harassment. Other students gain the opportunity to tell and hear their significant stories, enacted by peers along with professional Playback performers.

**Plan:**

1. Recruit up to 15 students representing all grades in the school. We can either announce the project and invite students to express interest; or invite students at teachers' recommendations. Students complete a simple application process.

*Criteria: interest; availability; consistency; maturity; readiness to be expressive. Previous acting experience not necessary. The group should represent school's diversity as much as possible in areas such as age, class, popularity, gender, and ethnicity.*

2. Two BAPT members lead a series of 8-10 training workshops (minimum length one and a half hours). Participants will learn basic Playback Theatre techniques and will also learn about the topics of bullying and sexual harassment, as well as the importance of building a safe and respectful community.

3. A day of performances (two or three performances) in selected classrooms where student performers join three BAPT members as the performing team. Performances give students in the audience an opportunity to tell personal experiences relating to the topics, and to explore constructive ways to build connection, respect, and safety.

We provide a lesson plan to each classroom teacher with guidelines for preparation and follow-up.

4. The core group meets twice more to debrief and to continue building skills.

5. At the end of the project the group meets to reflect and evaluate the year's experience.

**Optional add-on:**

Performance for staff, PTA, and/or parents to build awareness and readiness to respond.

**Cost for program:**

*This amount covers planning meetings; performer and trainer preparation; performer and trainer fees; materials; administration; and travel costs.*

Details to be discussed and negotiated with client.

