IMPLEMENTING THE WITS PROGRAMS

A Step-by-Step Guide for Community Leaders

Walk Away
Ignore
Talk it Out
Seek Help

1 *Determine if WITS is the best fit for your goals and objectives*

The WITS Programs bring together schools, families and communities to create responsive environments that help elementary school children deal with bullying and peer victimization. Learn more about WITS by watching a half-hour introductory video online.

WATCH THE VIDEO | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Community Leaders > Watch WITS in Action > WITS Introductory Video – Full Version

2 *Identify a WITS Programs school to work with*

If you are not already connected to a school, contact a school you are interested in working with and determine if they already use the WITS Programs. If they use WITS, talk to the school administrative staff about how you can support WITS at the school. If the school is not familiar with WITS, encourage the administration to explore the WITS website (www.witsprogram.ca) and then follow up to see if they are interested in implementing the program.

3 *Get to know your school*

Once you have connected with a school, schedule a visit to meet the principal and administrative staff. Ask the principal to identify one school representative who can be your main contact point to help you coordinate your future visits and assist with any questions that might arise.

4 *Become an accredited WITS Programs Community Leader*

The WITS Training Program for Community Leaders is a 60-minute online training module that teaches community leaders about their important role in the WITS Programs and helps them become Accredited WITS Programs Community Leaders. Complete the training program to receive your certificate of accreditation.

ACCESS THE TRAINING PROGRAM | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Community Leaders > WITS Online Training

5 *Explore WITS Programs online resources*

The WITS website (www.witsprogram.ca) has many helpful resources community leaders can use in their interactions at the school, including classroom resources, activities and ideas to get parents involved. The programs also offer an excellent selection of children's books that can be read during school visits to encourage children to explore WITS strategies.

ACCESS THE BOOK LISTS | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Schools > Book and Lessons

ACCESS OTHER RESOURCES | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Schools > Free WITS Printables or Sing with WITS

6 *Conduct the Swearing-In Ceremony and Tug-of-Help at your school*

The Swearing-In Ceremony and the Tug-of-Help are special assemblies led by community leaders that kick off the WITS Primary and WITS LEADS Programs. Work with the school representative to plan and conduct the assemblies.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Community Leaders > Swearing-In Ceremony

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TUG-OF-HELP | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Community Leaders > Tug-of-Help

7 *Plan and conduct follow-up classroom visits with school administration*

Following the Swearing-In Ceremony and Tug-of-Help, community leaders should make regular classroom visits throughout the year. Community leaders can use these visits to discuss WITS strategies and distribute WITS reminder gifts to students. Plan your visits with the school representative, discussing how many visits will be made in a year and if other community leaders will assist.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CLASSROOM VISITS | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Community Leaders > Classroom Visits

8 *Support the WITS momentum*

Talk about WITS with your colleagues and share ideas and strategies for supporting the WITS Programs in school communities.

9 *Build rapport with parents*

The WITS Programs aim to create responsive communities to prevent peer victimization by involving not only the schools and community leaders but families as well. Make connections with parents by participating in WITS information meetings held at the school and discussing your role with the WITS Programs as you meet parents on the playground.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WITS FOR FAMILIES | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Families

10 *Ask questions*

The WITS team is eager to answer your questions and provide you with support! Just email us at wits@uvic.ca or call us toll-free at 1-855-858-8766.

ACCESS MORE CONTACT INFORMATION | www.witsprogram.ca > Contact Us