

Teaching children how to deal with bullies

Written by

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Storyteller Daniella Daniel entranced an audience of over 100 young listeners at Southside Family Charter School on November 17. After an introduction from Executive Director Laura Matanah and two young Rainbow Rumpus readers, Meg Thomas from aMaze opened the event by having a large doll engage the audience in a brief back-and-forth about name-calling. Daniel then told stories about characters who found ways to deal with bullies.

Young people who were surveyed said that the stories gave them ideas about how to deal with name-calling. They also said they loved the event, which was clear from their dancing, singing, and shout-outs in response to Daniel's cues. Daniel was accompanied by drummer Tony Paul and nine student drumming volunteers. The free event drew over 30 community members, including several area child care centers, in addition to the student body. It was presented in conjunction with the National Association of Black Storytellers, and cosponsored by aMaze, Black Pride, and Southside Family Charter School.

Pre-school and school-age teachers were given copies of Rainbow Rumpus's printable picture books, and expressed great appreciation. "Books about LGBT families are hard to find," noted one teacher. "I'm so glad to be made aware of this resource." All of the books in Rainbow Rumpus's printable picture book series contain guides for parents and teachers. The books can be downloaded for free at

<http://www.rainbowrumpus.org/htm/printable.htm> . Each book can be illustrated by children. Rainbow Rumpus publishes an award-winning online magazine for children and teens with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) parents at www.rainborumpus.org

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