The Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (SCCAP): Initiative for Dissemination of Evidence-based Treatments for Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health Problems

With additional support from Florida International University and The Children’s Trust.
Keynote
Evidence-based School-based Violence and Prevention Programs

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Professor and Doddridge Saxon Chair of Clinical Psychology
The University of Alabama
Topics

- Prevention and treatment
- Evidence-based programs
- Typical elements of cognitive behavioral preventive interventions
- Myths or not
What do school-based interventions address? – The IOM Continuum
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions

● *Three Developmental Periods*
  - Preschool and Early Childhood
  - Later Childhood
  - Early Adolescence
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions in preschool and early childhood

- **Universal prevention programs**
  - **Good Behavior Game** (Embry, 2002)
  - **Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies** (Greenberg & Kusche, 1996)
  - **LIFT program** (Reid & Eddy, 2002; Eddy et al, 2003)
  - **Second Step Program** (Grossman et al, 1997; Taub, 2001)
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions in preschool and early childhood

- **Treatment and targeted prevention programs**
  - **Incredible Years** multicomponent program, with child and teacher training (Dinosaur School) and 12-20 parent training sessions (Webster-Stratton & Hammond, 1997; Webster-Stratton, 1998; Reid et al, 2007)
  - **Triple P** (Positive Parenting Program) is a 5-tier intervention that includes (1) media-based parent information, (2) 1-2 session parent training, (3) 4 session behavioral training for moderate problems, (4) 12 session behavioral training for more severe problems, and (5) 11 tailored sessions that includes a focus on parental dysfunction
  - **Montreal Delinquency Prevention Program** (Tremblay et al, 1996) was a multicomponent program for 2nd and 3rd graders, including parent training and social skills and self control training for children
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions in preschool and early childhood

- **Treatment and targeted prevention programs** (continued)
  - **Family Check-UP** (Shaw et al, 2006) is a 3 session intervention based on motivational interviewing techniques.
  - **Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)** (Brinkmeyer & Eyberg, 2003; Nixon et al, 2003) is a highly individualized 12-16 session intervention,
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions in later childhood

- **Universal prevention programs**
  - **Seattle Social Development Project** (Hawkins et al, 1999; Lonczak et al, 2001) - behavior management training for teachers, parent training, child social skill training
  - **Bullying Prevention Program** (Olweus, 1993; Berryhill & Prinz, 2003) - reduce acceptance by school staff of bullying
  - **Positive Behavior Supports** (Sugai & Horner, 2002; Todd et al, 2002) - Workshops for teachers and students, outlining positive behavioral expectations
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions in later childhood

- **Treatment and targeted prevention programs**
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions in *early adolescence*

- **Universal prevention programs**
  - **Life Skills Training** (Botvin & Griffin, 2004)
  - **Responding in Peaceful and Positive Ways** (Farrell et al, 2001)
  - **School Transitional Environment Project** (Felner et al, 2001)
  - **Positive Youth Development** (Caplan et al, 1992) - Sessions in 6th and 7th grades address stress management, problem solving and assertiveness, social networks, and substance and health information
Evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions in early adolescence

- Treatment and targeted prevention programs
  - The Art of Self-Control (Feindler & Ecton, 1986)
  - Other intensive, effective, multicomponent programs are Multisystemic Therapy (Henggler & Lee, 2003) and Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (Chamberlain & Smith, 2003) - are not based in schools, but typically can include therapists’ direct contact with schools
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems

- School-based interventions address reciprocal relations between children’s cognitions, emotions and behavior.
- To address these reciprocal processes, intervention’s have both behavioral elements (using basic behavioral principles, focusing on the influence of external contingencies) and cognitive elements (internal information-processing).
- Certain common elements exist in many school-based programs for children with aggressive and conduct problem behavior.
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems (cont.)

- **Goal Setting**
  - Children identify long-term and short-term goals for themselves in their home and school settings.
  - Short-term goals are typically “prosocial opposites” of problem behaviors, and lead to monitoring and reinforcement.
  - Research has indicated that a goal-setting component in a CBI program can help to generalize behavioral change into school and home settings.
  - Likely leads children to focus more on the consequences of their daily behaviors.
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems (cont.)

- **Organizational and study skills**, which are important for the concomitant academic problems that aggressive children have
  - Children identify useful and not-useful study skills, and then plan to use the useful ones when completing homework and long-term projects at school
  - Children and parents jointly create a homework contract which specifies when and where homework will be done, and how parents will monitor homework completion and provide contingent rewards for homework completion
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems (cont.)

- **Awareness of emotions**, especially anger, and of associated physiological arousal
  - Children increase their accuracy in identifying emotions in others
  - There is an initial focus on a wide range of emotions children experience, including emotions that they perceive as making them vulnerable (sadness, anxiety), and which they may not recognize in themselves
  - There is focused attention on the cognitive (ruminative “angry thoughts”) and physiological correlates of anger
  - Using aids such as anger thermometers, children learn to identify different levels of anger that they experience, and they identify “triggers” that lead to each level of anger
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems (cont.)

- **Anger management and self-regulation**
  - Attention to anger awareness leads into a focus on how children can better manage their arousal.
  - Children are taught a set of coping methods that they can use when anger-aroused, and which can aid them in recovering more quickly from an aroused state.
  - The self-regulation methods typically include use of distraction techniques, relaxation training (e.g. abdominal breathing, or progressive relaxation), and use of coping internalized self-statements.
  - The coping self statements are meant to lead into more deliberative processing of possible solutions to the social problem that is experienced.
  - Typically a series of graded exposure activities are used to assist children in practicing their self-regulation skills first in indirect ways (e.g. through puppet role-plays) and then in direct person-to-person role-plays.
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems (cont.)

**Perspective-taking and attribution retraining**

- Before children can accurately perceive the problem situations they face, they must develop an ability to accurately perceive others’ perspectives and intentions.
- After a set of fun game-like tasks that illustrate how a single stimulus can be perceived in quite different ways, children can engage in role-play tasks where different people’s different perceptions of events and of others’ intentions are explored.
- Although the focus is primarily often on children’s perceptions of their peer interactions, clinicians can also focus on adult-child interactions if warranted.
- The primary focus is on retraining the hostile attribution bias evident in reactive aggressive children, encouraging them to experience that it is sometimes hard to tell what others intend in problematic situations (rather than erroneously assuming hostile intentions in ambiguous situations).
Social problem-solving skills

- Along with anger management, problem solving skill training is the most common CBI technique used with aggressive children.
- Children learn a step-wise approach to thinking about problem resolution, typically including steps for problem identification, generation of choices or solutions to resolve the problem, consideration of consequences for each solution, and a method for making a decision about which choice to enact.
- Problem solving can be more successful when a positive goal to be achieved is identified, and when the child initially tries to resolve problems which trigger low to moderate levels of anger.
- Brainstorming about consequences (perceived as positive and negative; short and long term) is likely one of the most important aspects of the problem-solving process.
- A series of activities is again used, ranging from discussion, to game-like tasks, to role-playing, to video or audio recording an enactment of the problem solving process.
Typical elements of school-based prevention programs for children with conduct problems (cont.)

- **Social skills, dealing with peer pressure**, and involvement in less-deviant peer groups
  - Because of the associated social skills deficits of many (but not all) aggressive children, training in social skills with peers is often an element of CBI
  - As children get closer to adolescence, there is often a focus on handling developmentally-appropriate risks, such as peer pressure to engage in antisocial behavior
  - CBI can explicitly focus on children’s current involvement in potentially deviant peer groups, and can address how to move to other peer groups that are somewhat less risky
Myths – or Not
Myths – or Not

- Multicomponent interventions are more useful than simpler single component intervention
- Booster sessions are necessary
- Interventions have differing effectiveness in neighborhoods that vary socioeconomically
- Group interventions with aggressive children are iatrogenic
- Parent engagement in preventive intervention is only a function of parent characteristics
- A good workshop is sufficient training for school staff to implement prevention programs
- The characteristics of schools and school staff affect the implementation of programs
Multicomponent interventions are more useful than simpler single component interventions
Multicomponent interventions

- Overall, multicomponent intervention programs that involve child and parent components have stronger outcomes than do single components for children and for parents.

- There are few universal prevention multicomponent programs that have been to be effective, although the LIFT program is an exception.
Effect Sizes of Contrasts of Coping Power with Control Cell: Outcomes at 1 Year Follow-up

Lochman & Wells (2004), *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 72, 571-578*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>CP Child Component Only versus Control</th>
<th>CP Child + Parent Components versus Control</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Behavioral Improvement</td>
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<td>.34*</td>
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</table>

* indicates statistical significance.
So, myth or not?

- Not a myth for important outcomes in the community
- BUT IS a myth for school-based behavioral problems; child-only preventive interventions can be as effective as multicomponent intervention
Myths – or Not

- Booster sessions are necessary
Myths – or Not

- A remarkably understudied assumption, with few randomized tests of whether boosters promote long-term maintenance or produce long-term preventive effects, as assumed.
- Have been positive effects of a brief booster to the Anger Coping program in maintaining observed classroom disruptive off-task behaviors at a 3 year follow-up (Lochman, 1992), and of a booster for a family-focused prevention program on child aggression at a 1 year follow-up (Tolan et al, 2009).
- However, boosters have not produced additional effects in a treatment for adults with impulse-control problems (Hodgins et al, 2009) nor for a classroom social problem solving program to reduce aggression (Daunic et al, 2006).
Brief Coping Power – Growth Curve Analyses
Time 1-5 – on Teachers’ BASC Ratings of Externalizing Behavior Problems

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<th>COEFFICIENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>CP-Booster vs Control</td>
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</table>

- Coping Power delivered during 5th grade (24 child sessions, 10 parent sessions)
- CP Booster – monthly individual sessions in grade 6
- CP-Only:60; CP-Booster:60; Control:120
Teacher BASC Externalizing Ratings by Condition

Teacher Rating Externalizing Composite

Year

Control
CP only
CP-Booster
So, myth or not?

- Not a myth for preventive family interventions
- BUT may be a myth for school-based interventions
Myths – or Not

- Interventions are most effective in higher socioeconomic neighborhoods
Neighborhood Effects

- Exposure to neighborhood problems increases children’s aggressive behaviors (Colder, Mott, Levy & Flay, 2000; Guerra, Huesmann & Spindler, 2003), with heightened effects during middle childhood (Ingoldsby & Shaw, 2002).

- Neighborhood problems contribute to poor parenting (Pinderhughes, Nix, Foster, Jones & Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group, 2001), although the neighborhood effects continue to add to the effects of poor parenting on children’s aggressive behaviors (Greenberg, Lengua, Coie, Pinderhughes & CPPRG, 1999; Schwab-Stone et al, 1995).

- In addition to these direct and mediated effects, community contextual factors may influence the ability of preventive interventions to affect later parenting processes and children’s behavior.
TOCA Aggression: Coping Power and Neighborhood Disadvantage (Lochman et al, 2007, SRCD)

Level 2 Time Slope
- **TRT,G110**
- TRT,G210

Level 3
- Neighborhood Intercept, G001
- Neigh X Time Slope, G101
- Neigh X TRT X Time, G111
- Neigh X SQTime, G201
- **Neigh X TRT X SQTime, G211**

- ns (sig w/out neigh predictors)
- ns
- .207418 (.001***)
- ns
- ns
- -.015370 (.05*)
- .035886 (.03*)
Conclusion

- Neighborhood disadvantage, as measured by census data, have an effect on the Rx X Time Slope:
  - on children’s aggressive behavior, with intervention children and parents in the better neighborhoods showing most improvement
So, myth or not?

- NOT a myth - Is support for the assumption that school-based interventions fare better with children from higher SES neighborhoods through a 3 year follow-up
Myths – or Not

- Group interventions with aggressive children are iatrogenic
Although overall Coping Power program effects have significantly reduced children’s problem behavior, it is plausible that the degree of positive effects may be reduced or truncated to some degree by deviant peer effects and other behavioral management problems with groups of children.

- The steepest growth of substance use occurs among adolescents with drug-using peers (Chassin et al., 1996; Curran et al., 1997).
- Similarly, aggressive children within classrooms with high rates of other aggressive children are more likely to increase their aggression during that academic year (Barth et al., 2004).
**Intervention Research on Deviant Group Effects**

- By a 1-year follow-up, Dishion and Andrews (1995) found that youth who had received youth ATP sessions had higher rates of tobacco use and of teacher-rated delinquent behaviors than did the control children, and these iatrogenic effects were evident even if the parents had also received intervention in the combined condition.
  - At a 3-year follow-up, the teen intervention conditions continued to have more tobacco use and delinquency (Poulin et al., 2001).
  - Analyses of the iatrogenic group conditions revealed that subtle dynamics of deviancy training during unstructured transitions in the groups predicted growth in self reported smoking and teacher ratings of delinquency (Dishion et al., 2001).
Pilot Study of Individual vs Group format for Coping Power

- 11 schools randomly assigned to either the ICP (individually delivered Coping Power) or GCP (group delivered Coping Power) condition (ICP: 30; GCP: 30)

- **abbreviated CP intervention**: 24 child sessions and 10 parent sessions during the 4th grade year

- Assessments: T1, T2 (after 5 sessions), T3 (post; 98% retention)
Baseline-Post (T1-T3)

Dominance/Revenge Social Goals – *ICP vs GCP contrast*

Repeated Measures Anova: Time X Cond: $p = 01**$

**LSMean Score of Social Goal Composite**

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Condition

- Group - CP
- Individual - CP
Baseline-Post (T1-T3)
Self-Dysregulation – **ICP vs GCP contrast**
Repeated Measures Anova: Time X Cond: p=.03*

**LSMean Score of ADI Total Dysregulation**

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**Legend**
- **Group-CP**
- **Individual-CP**

**y-axis**
- LSmean_Tot ADI

**x-axis**
- Time Point
Baseline-Post (T1-T3) parent-rated BASC Conduct Problems – ICP vs GCP contrast
Repeating Measures Anova: Time X Cond: p= .008*

![Graph showing LSMean Score of Parent Rating Conduct Problems](image)

- Condition
- Group - CP
- Individual - CP

<table>
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<th>Time Point</th>
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Conclusion

- Individual format (ICP) is more effective than Group Format (GCP) in reducing parent-rated children’s conduct problems
- GCP was more effective than ICP in reducing children’s dominance/revenge-oriented social goals and in improving their self-regulation
- Thus, group and individual delivery of programs may affect different types of outcomes
So, myth or not?

- NOT a myth for child behavior outcome – an individually delivered intervention did better than a group intervention
- HOWEVER, other outcomes are better with a group format than with an individual format, so mixed.....
Myths – or Not

- Parent engagement in preventive intervention is only a function of parent characteristics
Parenting Practices Mediate Effect of Family Context on Parent Attendance at CP Parent Sessions
Ryan, Boxmeyer & Lochman, Behavioral Disorders, 2009

Maternal Depression
Community Support
Community Problems
SES/Parent Education
Contextual Factors
Parenting
Positive Parenting
Parent Involvement
Parental Monitoring
Child Social Goals
Revenge Social Goals
Parent Attendance
Dominant Social Goals
Attendance
Enhancing parent engagement: through parents

- Dishion and Kavanagh (2003) have used a 3-session family check-up to enhance parent motivation and parent engagement in intervention.
Feedback Form: Tool to communicate and connect family strength and areas of concerns.
Action Planning Form combines goal setting and MI strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family:</th>
<th>Child:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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- **Those things going well for my child and family:**
- **Areas I would like to focus on improving:**

**Specifically, my goal is to:**

**What actions will I take to meet this goal?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task: What needs to be done?</th>
<th>Description of Plan</th>
<th>Resources: What is needed to get it done?</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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**How important is it for your family to make this change?**

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<tr>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>At All</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
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</table>

**The most important reasons for making this change and meeting this goal is:**

**How confident are you that your family can make this change?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Confident</th>
<th>At All</th>
<th>Very Confident</th>
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**Some reasons that I am confident:**

**Is there anything that could get in the way of meeting this goal?**

**What can I do to help make sure this doesn’t get in the way?**
Enhancing parent engagement: through children

- Lag effects of child engagement and parent engagement during Coping Power sessions
Parent and Child Engagement Across early, Middle and Late Intervention
Ellis, Lindsey, Barker, Boxmeyer & Lochman, under review

- Parent engagement: attendance
- Child engagement: attendance, goal points earned, group points earned
So, myth or not?

- Parent engagement is affected by parent characteristics, such as their parenting patterns.
- However, it is a myth that parenting characteristics such as motivation can not be changed (e.g. with the Family Check-up), and that child characteristics, such as children’s initial engagement in their own sessions, can not directly affect parent engagement.
Myths – or Not

- A good basic workshop is sufficient training for school staff to implement prevention programs
Coping Power Field Trial in 57 Schools

Lochman, Boxmeyer, Powell, Qu, Wells, & Windle (2009). *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*

Training process for school counselors (randomly assigned to receive Basic Training or Intensive Training):

1. 3 days of workshop training
2. Monthly meetings (2 hours) while intervention underway

*For CP-IT counselors only:*

3. Individualized feedback on audiotaped sessions
4. Technical assistance from trainers via telephone and email contacts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>CP-Intensive vs Control Estimate (SE)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Behavior Problems</strong></td>
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<td>(child-report)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>(child)</td>
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<td><strong>APQ Inconsistent Discipline</strong></td>
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<td>(parent)</td>
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**p<.01, *p<.05,**
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<th>CP-Basic vs Control: Estimate (SE)</th>
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<td><strong>APQ Inconsistent Discipline (parent)</strong></td>
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**p<.01, *p<.05, +p=.06**
Conclusions/Implications for Training

- Evidence-based prevention programs such as Coping Power can be disseminated effectively to counselors in real-world settings, although:
  - The intensity of training makes a difference in whether improvements in children’s outcomes and mediating processes occur
  - Ongoing supervisory feedback about program implementation (particularly to foster client engagement) may be critical to promoting positive outcomes
So, myth or not?

- It is a myth that training intensity will not influence the implementation of new prevention programs.
The characteristics of schools and school staff affect the implementation of programs
### Counselor and School Characteristics Predicting Program Delivery

*\( p < .05, +p < .10 \)

Lochman, Powell, Boxmeyer, Qu, Wells, & Windle. (2009). *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Objectives Completed</th>
<th>Sessions Scheduled</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agreeableness</strong></td>
<td>.086* (.042)</td>
<td>.185+ (.103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Managerial Control</strong></td>
<td>-.286+ (.149)</td>
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## Counselor and School Characteristics Predicting Counselor Engagement

**p<.01, *p<.05**

<table>
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<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>With Children</th>
<th>With Parents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conscientiousness</td>
<td>.068* (.032)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agreeableness</td>
<td></td>
<td>.112** (.039)</td>
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<td>Managerial Control X Cynicism</td>
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<td>-.734** (.200)</td>
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<td>Autonomy X Cynicism</td>
<td>.674** (.173)</td>
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</table>
**Autonomy X Cynicism**

![Graph showing the relationship between Autonomy and Engagement with Children, with two lines indicating different Cynicism levels.](image-url)
Conclusions About Counselor and School Characteristics

- The GOOD NEWS: It is ok to be neurotic, not particularly open-minded, not particularly extraverted, and cynical if you are in the right work environment.

- Degree and quality of implementation can be influenced by agreeableness and conscientiousness of counselors and by characteristics of the school setting which interact with counselor characteristics (counselor cynicism in interaction with school autonomy and rigid managerial control).
So, myth or not?

- It is not a myth that counselor and school characteristics can influence the implementation of new programs
For more information, please go to the main website and browse for workshops on this topic or check out our additional resources.

**Additional Resources**

**Online resources:**
3. Olweus Bullying Prevention Program: http://www.clemson.edu/olweus/history.htm

**Books:**

**Selected Peer-reviewed Journal Articles:**
Keynote: Evidence-based School-based Violence and Prevention Programs

Websites:
3. Olweus Bullying Prevention Program: http://www.clemson.edu/olweus/history.htm

Books:


Peer-reviewed Journal Articles:


