

Protecting Children in School: 10 Ways Adults Can Speak Up

Children can make poor choices and still deserve protection. Consequences should teach. Adult violence teaches fear.

A child can be wrong and still deserve dignity, safety, and wise adults.

<input type="checkbox"/> Ask for de-escalation training Adults in schools should know child development, trauma-informed care, disability awareness, and calm intervention skills.	<input type="checkbox"/> Request clear force policies Families deserve to know when physical force may be used, who approves it, and how it is reviewed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Require parent notification Parents and caregivers should be told quickly when force, restraint, or aggressive intervention happens.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen mental health supports Counselors, social workers, restorative practices, and trusted adults can prevent many situations from escalating.
<input type="checkbox"/> Support real accountability Documentation, body or hallway camera review where available, incident reports, and community oversight help protect children.	<input type="checkbox"/> Include disability advocates Children with autism, ADHD, anxiety, trauma histories, or sensory needs may respond differently under stress.
<input type="checkbox"/> Speak against humiliation Public shaming, intimidation, rough handling, and unnecessary force leave marks that may last long after the school day ends.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teach children safe reporting Children should know how to ask for help, name what happened, and tell a trusted adult as soon as possible.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject false choices A school can believe in discipline and still refuse violence against children.	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep children at the center Adult politics should never become more important than child safety, dignity, and protection.

One next step I can take: _____

Share this with parents, caregivers, faith leaders, school boards, and community members who believe children deserve safe adults.