

IMPLEMENTING THE WITS PROGRAMS

A Step-by-Step Guide for Schools



1

Determine if WITS is the best fit for your school 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 Schools > Watch WITS in Action > WITS Introductory Video – Full Version

2

Learn how to use the WITS Programs

The WITS Teacher Accreditation Program is a 90-minute online training module that teaches elementary school instructional staff about the WITS Programs and helps them become Accredited WITS Programs Teachers. Encourage school staff to complete the accreditation.

 **ACCESS THE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM** | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Schools > WITS Online Training

3

Obtain WITS Books and Resources and share them with your school

Almost all of the WITS Programs resources are available free-of-charge on the WITS website, including the resource guide, lesson plans, videos, posters and pamphlets. Only the WITS Books and reminder gifts cannot be provided online but can be obtained cost-effectively. Designate a specific location for WITS materials so they can be easily accessed and used.

 **GET TIPS ON HOW TO COST-EFFECTIVELY OBTAIN WITS RESOURCES** | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Schools > Purchase WITS Resources

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Identify a community leader for your school

Identify a leader in your community, such as a police officer, firefighter, paramedic, athlete or Elder, and invite him or her to partner with you on the WITS Programs. Encourage your community leader to complete the WITS Training Program for Community Leaders – a 60-minute online training module that teaches community leaders about their role in the programs.


 **LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY LEADERS** | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Community Leaders > Your Role

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

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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. They take place in September or early October and kick off the WITS Primary and WITS LEADS Programs. Work with your community leader 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

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Integrate WITS strategies into your school's daily classroom life

Use WITS Books and their accompanying lesson plans to initiate classroom discussions about WITS strategies. In addition to the book lists and lesson plan, the WITS website also offers WITS posters, pamphlets and media resources, like the WITS Song and video clips, to share with your students.



ACCESS LESSON PLANS | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Schools > Books and Lessons



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

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Arrange follow-up classroom visits with your community leader

Following the Swearing-In Ceremony and Tug-of-Help, invite your school's community leader to make regular classroom visits throughout the year. Community leaders can use these visits to discuss WITS strategies and distribute WITS reminder gifts to the students.



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

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Invite parents to participate in the WITS Programs

Introduce parents to the WITS Programs by sending home WITS pamphlets. Host a WITS information night for parents and inform them about the WITS Programs in school newsletters. Invite parents to visit classrooms and read WITS books to the students.



ACCESS THE PAMPHLETS | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Schools > Free WITS Printables

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Sustain the WITS momentum

Talk about WITS with your colleagues and share ideas and strategies for integrating WITS into the classroom. Reinforce WITS strategies during "teachable moments" and while students are interacting on the playground. Organize school-wide activities such as poster contests.



ACCESS ACTIVITY IDEAS | www.witsprogram.ca > WITS for Schools > Primary Program > Classroom Resources and Activities

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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

