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The Bully Suicide Project - Survivor Stories(2)

Zachary's Story through the eyes of his mom, Elaine. This is how a Mom dealt with her son being bullied.

I am always sensitive to Zachary and his emotional well-being, more so even than my other kids because he is tender and sensitive. It's a hard thing to not over-protect him...so putting him on the bus at all is a conscious effort from me to let him get out there, grow up, and experience things without my protection.

On this day, it was on the bus ride home that the driver was disciplining an older child and in doing so made him change his seat. Zachary (as usual) was sitting alone, so the driver put this child in Zach's seat (Zach being by the window). So the child decided to turn his attention to Zach, who would prefer not to have attention from anyone, let alone an older, outspoken kid. The child made his friends watch as he repeatedly farted on Zach and laughed. Zach just kept looking out the window and ignoring him and the situation. When they came to Zach's stop, the boy refused his request to let him out of the seat. He told Zach that he wasn't going anywhere...and then finally let him off at the last minute. Zach came home and didn't mention any of this until bed time.

Ok, so first, I flipped out! Got angry, became the mother-lion and tried to tell him how he could have dealt with it. I tried to give him advice on how to deal with it in the future. Then I calmed down and told him I would talk to his school. Timothy took the "big brother" approach and vowed to ride the bus with Zach every day if it happened again.

The next morning, I had calmed down considerably, and decided that the best thing would be for Zach to ride the bus again and to avoid the child. I gave him a pep talk about staying away from this kid, but also speaking up and going to the driver if anything else happened (the boy did not ride the bus that morning). After he left home, I emailed his teacher to let her know what had happened, how I responded, and asked if she could talk to him and email me back to see how it went that morning. Well, she did much more. They have no tolerance with bullying and she went straight to the principal. They talked with Zach, had him privately identify the child, and put another adult on his bus from now on. I received four emails that day to keep me posted on the progress. I felt relieved and trusted that they were dealing with it swiftly and appropriately. Zach came home from school that day and felt much better. All the students had assigned seats on the bus and he was very relieved.

This whole situation really taught Zachary to speak up for himself and, most of all, to trust me and let me know when something is wrong. He tries so hard to hide his emotions and keep things to himself...he learned it's ok to ask for help.

The Bully Suicide Project :

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