

Bullying...

What is Bullying?

Bullying happens when a person with greater power takes *unfair advantage of a less powerful person* and these negative actions are repeated into a *pattern of behavior*. Bullying means there is an *imbalance of power* so that the victim cannot successfully defend himself or herself. Power can be physical size, strength, numbers, social standing, verbal skill, economic power, cultural or ethnic power, level of intelligence, popularity, gender, etc. Bullying is the persistent abuse of an underdog. The bully watches for opportunities to pick on the victim and the victim feels tormented and defenseless

Characteristics of Bullies

1. Strong desire for power and control over others.
2. Physical strength greater than average for own age, and greater than victims.
3. Age usually older than victim's.
4. Average or above average self-esteem.
5. Minimal anxiety and insecurity, usually claimed.
6. Low-average to above-average popularity outside of own group of followers.
7. Success in hiding their behavior from adults.
8. Continual tormenting of victims.
9. Hardness, lack of empathy or understanding for others, lack of conscience.
10. Defiant attitude toward authority, refusal to follow rules, sometimes violent behavior toward parents and teachers.
11. Actions become worse when a victim fights back.
12. Skill at seeming innocent and talking one's way out of situations when caught.
13. Enjoyment in bullying others.

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Who are the Victims of Bullying?

According to statistics, every seven minutes a child is bullied and 85% of the time no one is there to intervene. In a way, you could say that everyone in the community suffers when bullying behavior occurs. Many episodes of violent crime have their roots in a bully/victim struggle. However, there are certain individuals who are most often targeted for bullying. Traditionally, we have thought of these victims as the passive type. Research has revealed that there is another group of individuals who are often targeted as well. These have been "provocative" victims, because they provoke, or hassle others.

Characteristics of Victims

1. Rarely tell about being bullied because they think it will make matters worse.
2. Don't think adults can or will help.
3. Are repeatedly teased in a nasty way, called names, belittled, ridiculed, intimidated, degraded, threatened, given orders, dominated.
4. Are made fun of and laughed at by others.
5. Get picked on, pushed around, shoved, punched, hit, kicked.
6. Are involved in "quarrels" or "fights" in which they are unfairly defenseless and from which they try to withdraw (maybe crying).
7. Have their books, money or other belongings taken, damaged or scattered around.
8. Have bruises, injuries, cuts, scratches or torn clothing that cannot be given a natural explanation.
9. Are (often) alone and excluded from the peer group during breaks and lunch time, do not seem to have a single good friend.
10. Are chosen among the last in team games.
11. Sometimes carry weapons to protect themselves from bullies.
12. Show sudden or gradual deterioration of school work.