

## Dealing with Bullying Suggested Strategies

1. It is imperative children know what bullying is. It is also imperative that all the adults working with the children in your classroom know what bullying is.
  - a. The adults need to set the tone that bullying in any form will not be tolerated in your classroom or program.
    - i. When someone comes to you with a report of bullying, you must believe them.
    - ii. Never dismiss the report or the child's feelings.
    - iii. **IT IS NOT THE VICTIMS FAULT; IT IS NOT UP TO THE VICTIM TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE BULLY MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND DISCIPLINED IF THE BEHAVIOR IS NOT ENDED AND REPLACED WITH GOOD BEHAVIOR**
  - b. Intervene **IMMEDIATELY** when you witness bullying. When you do you accomplish 4 things
    - i. You put a stop to that incident
    - ii. You make it clear you won't tolerate such behavior
    - iii. You show that you are an adult that will do something about bullying, not ignore it.
    - iv. You encourage other victims or witnesses to tell you about bullying you do not witness yourself
  - c. Teach Children the difference between "ratting" and "reporting"
    - i. "Ratting is when one student tells on another for the purpose of getting the other student in trouble. Reporting is when one student tells on another for the purpose of protecting someone else."
    - ii. You may find an increase in tattling for the first week or two until children understand what you need to be told and what they need to work out themselves.
2. These strategies do not have to add "one more thing" to your day. Make them part of your daily group teaching time. Incorporate them into your daily classroom expectations.



3. Take a few minutes, in your groups to discuss what you are already doing, a mini self assessment. Do you have a problem in your classroom or are you trying to make sure you don't?
  - a. Is what you are currently doing working?
  - b. Why or why not?
  
4. Using the words posted, develop an Anti Bullying Public Awareness Campaign you can use at your school. Be creative, keeping in mind the age groups you are working with. Think about a good advertising campaign. Do you need a jingle, a logo, a saying or something to get your point across?
  - a. What do you think will work well for your age group?
  - b. What difficulties did or will you encounter?
  - c. How can you use this concept in your classroom?
  - d. How can you incorporate these words into you daily classroom conversations?
    - i. Parent newsletters to tell them about bullying/anti-bullying
    - ii. Daily group time discussions regarding how to treat each other.
  - e. Is this something that you could have your children do?
  
5. Let's STOP and THINK for a few moments. "Stop what you are doing and lets Think together about what you are doing or saying"
  - a. Make a poster with Stop Think
  - b. Have the children come up with words or actions that they would see as behavior that should be stopped. Write these on the poster.
  - c. Talk about stopping and thinking and what will happen when children exhibit those behaviors. Make the rules and consequences clear to the children.
    - i. Role plays
  
6. Rewarding Good Behavior
  - a. Sets the attitude for the class that positive words and actions are praised and highly esteemed.
  - b. Send home "Praise Cards"

