

Let's Stop Bullying: Advice for Young People



BULLYING IS WRONG

Nobody has the right to hurt other people by hitting them, kicking them, calling them names, spreading rumors about them or by doing anything else that is intended to be upsetting.

Bullies try to justify their actions by saying that it is their victim's fault for being different. They may pick on someone who wears glasses, or has a different accent, or is a different body size, practices a different religion, or is shy or clever, or good looking, or has a disability. Any excuse will do, and if there is no real reason then the bullies will invent one.

If this is happening to you, tell yourself that it is not your fault, and that it is the bullies who need to change, not you.

WHAT TO DO

Talk to someone you can trust, a teacher, parent, older friend or relative. Be persistent. If the first person you talk to ignores you - don't give up - speak to someone else.

If you can, write down everything the bullies did or said to you, and try to write down how you feel. When you find someone you can trust and who is helpful, discuss what you wrote with that person. Be very careful to only write down things that really happened.

If you find it difficult to talk to an adult, ask one of your friends to come with you, or ask someone to talk to an adult on your behalf.

Most importantly - do something!

Sometimes bullying stops quickly but doing nothing means it may continue until someone is seriously upset or hurt. That could be you, or the bullies may find new victims. If their behavior is not challenged they are unlikely to stop.

- Bullying is wrong. Nobody has the right to hurt other people.
- Talk to someone you can trust, a teacher, parent, older friend or relative.
- If you find it difficult to talk to an adult, ask one of your friends to come with you, or ask someone to talk to an adult on your behalf.
- Don't try to deal with the problem on your own.



**CONNECTICUT
Clearinghouse**
a program of the Connecticut Center
for Prevention, Wellness and Recovery

800.232.4424 (phone)

860.793.9813 (fax)

www.ctclearinghouse.org

A Library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness

WHAT NOT TO DO

- Don't try to deal with the problem on your own – there is nothing wrong in asking for help.
- Don't hit the bullies – you might end up being accused of bullying yourself.
- Always tell the truth about what happened. Don't exaggerate. If a small part of what you say is shown to be untrue then it throws everything else into doubt.
- Don't believe the lies that the bullies tell about you.
- Don't hide what happened from the adults you trust. Keeping things secret is a bully's biggest weapon against you. That is why a bully will go to so much trouble to keep you from telling.

ADULT BULLYING

Bullying is wrong whatever the age of the person who is doing the bullying. Adults can bully children in many different ways. If an adult is doing something to you, or trying to make you do something you do not like, it may be bullying. Talk to someone about what is going on.

If this is happening at school you can talk to your parents. If this is happening at home you can talk to a trusted teacher. Do not keep it a secret. The only way to stop bullying is to talk openly about it.

WORKING TOGETHER

You do not have to be a victim to act. Bullies may think that you approve of what they are doing if you do nothing when you see someone being harassed. Part of the fun that bullies get comes from the reaction

YOU CAN HELP BY:

- challenging all bullying behavior
- befriending younger children
- talking about bullying

or, by taking part in your schools' anti-bullying activities such as:

- acting in plays
- designing posters
- taking surveys

The single most important things a school can do to prevent bullying is to have a clear policy to which staff, pupils and parents are committed.

Connecticut Resources

The Governor's Prevention
Partnership
www.preventionworksct.org
860.523.8042

State Department of Education
www.sde.ct.gov
860.713-6543

National Resources

Anti-Defamation League
www.adl.org
212.885.7700

www.stopbullying.gov

Pacer's National Bullying
Prevention Center
www.pacer.org



CONNECTICUT
Mental Health & Addiction Services