



Teasing Happens: Tips for Teachers



Having friends and being part of a group are very important to school age children. There will be times throughout the school experience when teasing will be a problem. Your primary role is to make sure that your student is in a safe learning environment.

In general, the negative effects from teasing and bullying are greater for students with special needs. Be prepared to address teasing and bullying issues quickly if you notice a child is unable to handle it themselves. Teasing and bullying that is ignored can lead to school absences, poor socialization, negative changes in body image and long-term emotional problems.



STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH TEASING IN THE SCHOOL SETTING

- Be open to listening to students' experiences, ask their permission of how to introduce or refer to their limb difference
- Set clear expectations and consistent consequences for behavior that is likely to hurt others with words or actions in your classroom or on the playground. Develop a no-tolerance policy for teasing
- Teach your students ways to avoid or diffuse teasing by helping them make choices about resolving conflicts themselves
- Teach your students how to respond to negative interactions, get adult help and reach out to peers that are being excluded or hurt
- Encourage inclusion in groups, playground, lunch buddies, etc. Be creative by making the activity fun for all
- Use the "No-Bullying" Curriculums available

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Plan a unit on differences and abilities
- Have books available appropriate for the age group you teach
- Use "No Bullying" materials appropriate for a classroom which include games, role playing, and other fun activities geared to this subject



Remember: Ask your student's treatment team for additional resources they would recommend

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