

Bullying (child)



Bullying occurs when one person harms, intimidates or coerces another person repeatedly over a period of time. The person being bullied tends to belong to a vulnerable or stigmatised group. Bullying may include threats, teasing, name calling, ignoring and excluding, as well as actual physical assault such as hitting, kicking or spitting. Cyber-bullying is bullying that takes place online or on your mobile phone via social media, email or messages.



Notice

There may be a number of signs that suggest a person is being bullied. A child who is being bullied may have injuries they are unable to explain, they may become withdrawn or fearful and start “losing” items that have been damaged or stolen by bullies. The child may or may not recognise they are being bullied and may not know who they can ask for help.



Think

Bullying can have devastating impacts that last long into adulthood. Children do not have the skills to deal with bullies themselves and may feel ashamed or fearful of disclosing that they are being bullied. Autistic children are particularly vulnerable to bullying - more vulnerable than both children with other additional learning needs and those with none.



Attend

Children need supportive relationships within which they can share their concerns and learn examples of what is acceptable behaviour and what is unacceptable and wrong. Parents need to report bullying, either to the school or to the police - especially if there is physical violence. An Autistic child needs to know who they can tell if they are concerned about bullying.