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Section 2: Four Types of Bullies

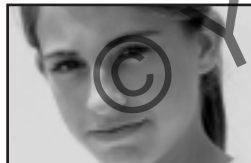
This is the time when bullying ends. While the problem can be complex and metastasize if not dealt with, the solutions are here. We just have to use them. The most important reason that keeps us from using the solutions is a lack of knowledge. Too often we just don't realize who the bullies are, what they do, and how harmful their actions really are.

Sure, the most obvious members of the "vulture culture," a detrimental atmosphere that exists in many schools, are easily identified. They beat up little kids, attract attention, and are told to stop. But what about the more subtle bullies, those that hide in plain sight?

Sad to say, too often bullying goes on right before our eyes. Yet we do nothing, but not because we don't care. It's because we don't know the various bully types that can range from minor, less serious forms to major and extremely dangerous ones. But far too often, if we don't stop the lesser bullies in their tracks, they will progress and eventually do deadly harm. So being able to recognize the four kinds of bullies, and how to stop them, is key.



Bully Type 1
The Dissers



Bully Type 2
The Hitter



Bully Type 3
The Controller



Bully Type 4
The Potential Killer

Section 2: Four Types of Bullies



Bully Type 1 – The Disser

Insight

The diss is a student who verbally disrespects another on purpose and belongs to the most common of the lesser bully varieties. On the surface he/she does little harm. Nobody is physically hurt and no vandalism is observable. No school rule is blatantly broken and the end result is often just a minute ripple effect. Certainly some kids got their feelings hurt, but so what? No outward signs remain.

Therefore, the disses are the most overlooked school bullies because they shoot from the lip only. No fists or weapons are in play. And after their hurtful words have been flung and have stung, who keeps a record? Sticks and stones may hurt, but not words. Is too often the unwritten rule in school. So word attacks, even of the most painful kind, are ignored.

And yet the disses can do serious harm and leave lasting inner scars. But that doesn't enter their minds. They are really dismissers, students who think too much of themselves and too little of others. Therefore, they belong to the school "vultures," students who are bigger, older, or meaner, and verbally prey on the younger, smaller, sweeter, or less glib kids. In short, the disses are sneaky bullies who channel their relational aggression into name-calling, threatening, hate speech, taunting, mean teasing, or socially excluding others.

Like all bullies, the disses want to elevate their standing by belittling other kids. Their weapons of choice are their wagging tongues or their nimble fingers on a keyboard. They use language either to diss a classmate with oral communication or via techno teasing or blasting.

This is the Text Generation. That means kids love to text, using their own abbreviated language. Therefore, many diss bullies show their disrespect toward their peers in their emailing, blogging, chatting in chat rooms, texting, instant messaging, website posting, or taking pictures and forwarding them.

This verbal or written bullying is so widespread that we can subdivide it. Homophobic bullying and harassment belong to one of the subgroups. In fact, gay kids can come in for the most frequent bullying. Some researchers say that many kids hear anti-gay comments more than 25 times a day. Worse is that one third of homosexual students have been threatened and physically injured as well.

Section 2: Four Types of Bullies



Bully Type 1 – The Dissers

Bully Story

Recently the parents of a former Fayetteville, Arkansas, student filed a law suit against the school district and the administration there, claiming that their son Billy Wolfe was picked on and bullied over and over, and was the subject of sexual harassment. Allegedly, his schoolmates teased him about being gay, which he said he was not, and often called him curse words.

This federal lawsuit, 33 pages in length, alleges that Billy was subjected over and over to cyber bullying on Facebook, among other things.

>> Tips

The most important quality a school needs is to be a place where all students feel safe, respected, and looked after. Justice and fairness have to be the cornerstones, and teachers, counselors, parents, and all other staff must take the lead in providing a safe environment for kids, both physically and emotionally. All children must feel connected in order to have a sense of community.

This process starts by honoring all children and working to increase their self-esteem. Whenever a child's self-esteem is high, the dissers will have less of a negative impact. To do this, make all your students realize that they count. Provide opportunities for all children to be involved not just a select few.

Section 2: Four Types of Bullies



Bully Type 1 – The Dissers

>> Strategies

1

Create a warm, friendly climate in your school where all kids are valued and no bully talk is allowed, by posting lots of pictures of all sorts of kids working together.

Ask your students:

- How can we make our school friendlier? What little or big changes could be made to make it more welcoming? Then follow through.

2

Choose a team name for each class or grade and enlist the teams' help in fighting bullying.

Ask your students:

- Students, from now on we are learning teams. What team name(s) can you suggest? Why? What team colors would be great? Why?
- Ask students to choose the best names/colors, and the use them.

3

Ask students to compliment a different classmate each day, making sure not to overlook anyone. Ask them for a list of positive, encouraging adjectives such as "helpful," "nice," "friendly," "cheerful," "outstanding," "excellent," etc., post the list on the bulletin board, and encourage students to use them in regards to one another.

Section 2: Four Types of Bullies



Bully Worksheet

What is a bully? _____

How can you recognize a bully? _____

Do you know a bully? _____

What have you seen/heard them do? _____

What is a good way of dealing with a bully? _____

What is the best way of dealing with a bully? _____

Have you ever been bullied? Describe the incident. _____

What advice do you have for kids who are bullied? _____

What message do you want to send the bullies? _____

What punishment should a bully receive? _____
