

# Distinguishing Bullying From Peer Conflict, Accidents, Misunderstandings

| <b><i>Typical Peer Conflict</i></b>  | <b><i>Bullying</i></b>  |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Equal power between students</li> <li>2. Students involved may be friends</li> <li>3. Negative actions do not follow a pattern</li> <li>4. Conflict not pre-meditated and no real intention to cause harm</li> <li>5. Followed by sincere remorse</li> <li>6. Interest in repairing relationship</li> <li>7. Both students play active role</li> <li>8. Youth may be supported by peers</li> <li>9. Intention to resolve a situation</li> </ol>                                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Imbalance of power between students</li> <li>2. No real friendship</li> <li>3. Negative actions are repeated</li> <li>4. Actions are purposeful and possibly pre-meditated</li> <li>5. Bully shifts blame with, no sincere remorse</li> <li>6. No interest in repairing relationship</li> <li>7. Incident is mostly one-sided</li> <li>8. Target is alone without peer support</li> <li>9. Intention is to gain power, control or items</li> </ol>  |
| <b><i>Accidents or Misunderstandings</i></b>   | <b><i>Bullying</i></b>  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Someone says something and didn't know it would upset the other, apologizes. The person is sad to see the other one upset.</li> <li>2. The person stops when asked.</li> <li>3. Someone borrows something without asking but gives it back when asked.</li> <li>4. A person accidentally bumps into an individual or pushes past an individual but says "sorry."</li> <li>5. A person doesn't agree with everything another individual says but respects his/her opinion.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Someone thinks it is fun to upset another person. They say things again and again, laughing if the target gets cross or sad.</li> <li>2. The person carries on when asked to stop.</li> <li>3. Someone takes another person's things just to see the person get upset.</li> <li>4. Someone kicks, pushes, punches, or hurts another on purpose.</li> <li>5. Someone sends nasty or mean messages to an individual's phone or email.</li> <li>6. A person might be asked to do something that looks silly or might get the person in trouble.</li> </ol> |

Source:

"Bullying & Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Guide for School Staff" by Alice Stobart, 2009