

Is What My Child Telling Me Peer Conflict? Mean Behavior? Or Bullying? What are the Differences?

PEER CONFLICT	MEAN BEHAVIOR	BULLYING BEHAVIOR
<p>Conflict between peers is a natural part of growing up. Children will have times when they disagree and can't solve their own problems. They may even become so upset that they say or do mean things.</p>	<p>Children may act impulsively or assert themselves by saying mean things or doing unkind things. This could include making fun of others, using a hurtful name, acting in a physically aggressive way, taking something without permission, or leaving a child out.</p>	<p>Bullying is serious behavior that has four key features. All four must be present for the situation to be considered bullying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power imbalance Intentional Repeated over time It aims to harm or hurt another person
<p style="text-align: center;">If it's a peer conflict, you will be aware that these children :</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">If it is mean behavior, usually:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">If it is bullying you will see:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually choose to play or hang out together Have equal power (size, age, social status etc) Are equally upset Are both interested in resolving the issue Will be able to work things out with adult help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not planned and seems to happen more spontaneously or by chance It may be aimed at any child who is nearby The child being mean may feel badly when an adult points out the harm they have caused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated acts of verbal, physical or relational aggression Intentional harm to the victim The victim will feel bad, but the bully doesn't seem to care The bully is trying to gain something such as power, status, friends, or possessions The bully does not take responsibility and may not try to solve the problem
<p style="text-align: center;">Adults can respond by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping the children talk it out or problem solve Assisting the child to see other people's perspective or point of view and what each child wants <p>If this persists, your next step is to talk with your child's classroom teacher or school social worker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Adults can respond by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting quickly, firmly and respectfully to stop the behavior Letting the child know that their words or actions were hurtful Re-directing the child to a more positive behavior or interaction Help child to take action to repair the situation Consider using consequences as appropriate Monitor behavior to make sure it doesn't become bullying <p>If this persists, your next step is to talk with your child's classroom teacher or school social worker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Adults can respond by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing it immediately Ensuring targeted child's safety Reassure any bystanders that the adults are taking care of it Report to the appropriate authority Providing support for victim Providing education and support to bully Continue to monitor the bully's behavior <p>If this persists, your next step is to talk with your child's principal.</p>