

FACTS ABOUT BULLYING

FROM OLWEUS' RESEARCH

There has been a 50% increase of severe bullying.

Bullying tends to be done by limited number of kids.

55-60% of criminals are bullies - 40% recidivism rate for bullies and 10% recidivism rate for non-bully offenders.

Bullies look like:

Aggressive toward kids, parents and teachers

Little empathy positive view of violence

Boys tend to be physically stronger

Not insecure or low self-esteem

Not low social skills

Best at reading social cues

Skillful manipulation motivation

- *strong need to dominate

- *like to subdue others

- *gratification from being a bully

- *poor limits set on them

1. Inconsistent parenting

2. Hands-off approach

3. Too little care

4. Little boundaries/limits

- *get prestige from like-minded peers

FACTS ABOUT AGGRESSION

- * Aggression can be predictable - higher as the child gets older
- * Habits of thinking about violence
- * Connections with social worlds
- * Forming habits of thinking about violence is taken from social setting to social setting.
- * According to Dr. Slaby, direct bullying increases in the 8th grade. In 9th grade the bullying is taken out into the community.
- * Victims need as much help as aggressors. They will become the aggressor in other settings.

THE GOOD NEWS

- * Violence is learned. The pattern can be changed. No matter the age, it can be "unlearned".

Passive-submissive victim

Looks like:

- * Anxious
- * Insecure
- * Depressed
- * Low self-esteem
- * Look upon themselves as failures - do not see self as star kids
- * Often do not have a single good friend in classroom!
- * Not teasing/aggressive in their behavior pattern - not provoking bullying "not asking for it"

Boys

- * Physically weaker
- * Cautious
- * Sensitive
- * Difficulty in asserting themselves - contributes to them being victimized
- * Related victimization clearly increases and augments these negative adjustments

Dan Olweus' studies:

- * Suicidal ideation is 5 times as common
- * Lifetime - victims in grade 5 followed to age 24 - victims had not been victimized for 7 to 10 years - higher depression, lower self-esteem, did not grow out of it - life time effects

Provocative victim (bully/victim)

Looks like:

- * Unable to concentrate on school work
- * Fidgety
- * Nervous
- * Perhaps loud
- * Interruptive
- * Hyperactive
- * Clumsy
- * Immature
- * Has irritating or nasty habits
- * Lacks social sense
- * Reacts violently when bullied
- * Blurts things out
- * Irks adults as much as peers
- * Evokes negative feelings in everyone
- * Aggressive reaction pattern
- * May try to bully weaker students
- * Provides a form of entertainment for those that bully
- * Not readily comforted by adults
- * Often punished for their reaction to the bullying
- * Become distrustful of adult "justice"
- * May be gifted and learning disabled at same time

- * ****Provocative victims have ADHD-like symptoms****

- * Very immature compared to their peers
- * Slow development of inhibition and self-regulation

Provocative victims try to fight back when attacked but they are not good at it!