

CHILDREN'S FRIENDSHIP PROJECT

Summer 2003

Children's Friendships

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone keeps doing or saying things to have power over another person. Some of the ways people bully others are by calling them names, saying or writing nasty things about them, leaving them out of activities, not talking to them, threatening them, making them feel uncomfortable or scared, taking or damaging their things, hitting them, or making them do things they don't want to do. Have any of these things happened to you? Have you done any of these things to someone else? Bullying is an unacceptable behavior that makes the person being bullied feel afraid or uncomfortable.

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Why is Bullying Harmful?

Some people think bullying is just part of growing up and a way for young people to learn to stick up for themselves, but bullying can make kids feel lonely, unhappy, and frightened. It can make them think there must be something wrong with them. They may lose confidence in themselves and may even not want to go to school anymore.



How Common is Bullying?

We asked 206 children (108 girls and 98 boys) ages 8-13, attending schools in Champaign, Urbana, and surrounding areas to come into our lab and answer some questions for us. Using these questions, we tried to see if bullying had a harmful impact on children's well-being and how often children experienced an act of bullying.

The Children's Friendship Project shows that sometimes when kids get picked on or teased it hurts them for longer than just that day. For example, Peter teased Joe all of the time in school, and Joe was embarrassed and sad when it happened. Over the summer, even though Joe never saw Peter, he had a hard time thinking that other kids would be nice to him at his baseball camp. He thought that all kids would be mean to him.

We also found that children who get teased have problems in the way

