

BULLYING

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BULLYING AND THE SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD

Parents should familiarize themselves with different forms of bullying that a child with special needs may experience:

Manipulative Bullying:

- This form of bullying occurs when a child with special needs is being coerced or controlled by another student.

Conditional Friendship:

- This form of bullying occurs when a child thinks that someone is being their friend but the times of friendship are alternated with times of bullying.

Exploitative Bullying:

- This form of bullying occurs when the features of a child's condition are used to bully them either by other classmates or via technology and social media.

If parents suspect their child is the target of bullying they should:

- Communicate with their child. Children can be reluctant to speak up for fear of retaliation. Parents should listen, and speak openly and honestly about bullying.
- Never ignore complaints from your child regarding bullying. Intervene immediately by contacting the school and talking with all pertinent school staff.
- Ask for a general IEP meeting if applicable. Discuss the situation and possible solutions.
- Continue to assess and monitor the situation. Is the child physically and emotionally safe? If the child becomes reluctant to go to school, withdrawn and/or depressed, bring the matter back to the school attention.

For more information on bullying and the special needs child:

<http://www.abilitypath.org/areas-of-development/learning--schools/bullying/articles/walk-a-mile-in-their-shoes.pdf>

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/bullypdf/BP-18.pdf>

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/toolkits/pdf/PeerAdvocacyGuide.pdf>

