

OSKAR AND THE BIG BULLY BATTLE! BULLYING OR CONFLICT?

Grade Levels: 3-5, with adjustment K-2

“No, I wasn’t a bully! Bullies are big. Bullies are mean. Bullies are scary.
I’m not any of those things. Frank and I were just playing around.”

–Oskar

Bullying: using words or actions to hurt someone on purpose

Conflict: a disagreement or argument that you can fix

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn to differentiate between a bullying scenario and a situation of conflict.

MATERIALS

1. Black or white board; chalk or dry erase markers

PROCEDURE

1. Discuss with students the difference between bullying and conflict, and establish definitions of each. In conflict, people disagree. It doesn’t happen all the time, and usually both people are upset. Bullying is when one person tries to hurt someone else on purpose, and it usually happens more than once.
2. Present different scenarios and have students identify whether or not they are bullying situations. If they think it’s bullying, ask students to stand up. If they think it isn’t, students should sit down or remain seated. Examples:
 - Michelle is calling Zach mean names again, just like she did yesterday and the day before that. Is this bullying?
Yes, calling names is hurting someone on purpose, and it is happening more than once.
 - Mary and Tina are friends. Today they are having an argument. Mary said something mean to Tina, and Tina said something mean to Mary. Is this bullying?
No, they are having a conflict. Both are being mean and will probably be friends again. This is probably a one-time thing.
 - Josh told Adam he would hurt him if he touched his blocks. Then, Josh pushed Adam away. During story time, Josh gave Adam a really mean look and sat on Adam’s hand. Is this bullying? *Yes, it is mean behavior intended to hurt Adam, and it is happening more than once.*

- Sarah and Cathy are arguing about who gets to go down the slide first. Is this bullying?
No, it is conflict. It's not one person being mean on purpose more than once.
- Elizabeth keeps knocking down the towers that Scott and Elizabeth have built. Last week, she ripped their art project in half. Is this bullying?
Yes, it is mean behavior happening more than once and intended to hurt.