



Bullying in the day-care centre



fub
FORELDREUTVALGET
FOR BARNEHAGER
(THE PARENTS' COUNCIL FOR DAY CARE)



“Children are the most valuable thing parents have, and children’s well-being on a daily basis is important for the well-being of their parents.”

Does bullying occur in day care?

Yes, bullying does occur in day care. Many of the people working in day care feel that it is difficult to define the behaviour they see in day care as bullying. One of the reasons for this is that they shrink from seeing the effect the negative behaviour of small children may have on others.

Even if bullying is not a major or prominent problem in day care, it is a serious problem for those concerned. The emotions of children who are subjected to exclusion, offensive words or actions are just as painful whether we call it bullying or not.

The Parents’ Council for Day Care (FUB) is a part of the “Manifest Mot Mobbing” (Manifest against Bullying) programme, and wishes to place bullying in day care on the agenda.

What is bullying among toddlers?

Studies of children’s experiences in day care show that one out of ten children feel that they are picked on in day care. Characteristics of such behaviour include:

- hitting, pushing and pulling hair
- teasing, being laughed at, being called bad names
- destroying and hiding things from each other
- exclusion

“It’s not so strange that the other children tease Nina, she cries so easily!”

The day-care staff can talk to the children to learn about their well-being and the interaction among the children in the group.



What can the day-care centre and the parents do?

Adults must be clear and state in a friendly manner in relevant situations that bullying is not accepted. It is important to bear in mind that in a bullying situation the children will not be equals, and if the children are asked, only the “strongest” will be heard.

When children are left to their own devices in day care, the right of the strongest may easily prevail.

Adults must:

- be together with the children so that bullying is discovered
- be close enough to see and hear
- be active, warm and involved
- care

“An adult who is able to set limits in a warm and clear manner will have a preventive effect on bullying and other anti-social behaviour. Such an adult will be considered strong, will have influence and is the type of adult children and young people need.”

There is a need for systematic work on promoting respect and tolerance between the children in day care. Work on raising awareness of attitudes may prevent bullying and discrimination among children, not only while they are in day care but also later in their lives. Friendship between children is another vital prerequisite for preventing bullying. Parents and day care staff have a very important duty to encourage friendship between children.

“Having a friend and being a friend is a good goal for working with children in day care. Friendship is the most important tool against bullying.”



Cooperation between the home and day care:

It is very important that parents become involved immediately if the day care staff has a suspicion of bullying. It is equally important that parents report to the day care staff when they discover that there is bullying among the children. It is very important for children, parents and staff to talk together to stop the bullying, and the adults must make a plan for how to prevent it.

In addition to following up on their child's well-being it is important that parents also care about other children and include them in their own daily life. This can be done by saying hello to the other children in day care, talking to them and inviting others people's children home.



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