

Helping Your Child:

- ◆ Set a good example. Model how to treat all people respectfully, even those who are frustrating or different. Children who experience threats, hitting, and rough play repeat this behavior with peers.
- ◆ Encourage your child to make friendships and to be kind to others. Point out kind acts. Model kind behavior.
- ◆ Identify “small” versus “big” problems with your child to avoid over reacting to conflict.
- ◆ Teach respectful assertiveness. Being able to stand up for oneself firmly, yet respectfully, can discourage bullying behavior. Practice how to do it at home.
- ◆ Empower your child to solve problems by advocating for him or herself. Teach your child to actively ignore, then stand up for him/herself with assertive words, and to seek adult help when it is needed.
- ◆ Keep an open mind. Your child may not know or have shared the whole story.
- ◆ Build social skills and confidence. Poor social skills and low self-esteem can make a child a target for bullying.



Contact Us

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Ripon Area School District Elementary Schools

Creating Safe Schools



Parent Information on Bullying Prevention

What Bullying is:

Bullying is when a person or a group of people repeatedly use words or actions to intentionally cause physical or emotional harm to another person who may have a feeling of lesser power in the situation.

Bullying can include:

Verbal Harm:

- ◆ Taunting, name calling, threats
- ◆ Spreading rumors

Physical Harm:

- ◆ Hitting, kicking, shoving, tripping, etc.
- ◆ Taking and/or damaging belongings

Social Exclusion:

- ◆ Ignoring and excluding on purpose
- ◆ Encouraging the exclusion of others

Cyberbullying:

- ◆ Sending cruel email messages, texting, or using social media to cause harm.

What Bullying is Not:

Bullying is not a single or random incident of mean or unkind behavior that does not reoccur following adult intervention. All teasing or conflict between children is not necessarily bullying behavior.

Is Your Child Being Bullied?

While many actions involve aggressive behaviors, not all are bullying incidents. The following table illustrates the differences between rough play, fighting, and bullying.

Report Bullying

Rough Play	Usually friends Often will do the same thing again Power not an immediate issue Not about hurting Affect is friendly, mutual
Fighting	Usually not friends Typically not repeated Power close to equal Trying to hurt each other Affect is negative, angry
Bullying	May or may not be friends Behavior is repeated Power is NOT equal Bully is trying to hurt or humiliate Affect varies

Ripon Area School District is committed to providing a safe, positive, and nurturing educational environment for all students and staff. Prevention of bullying behavior is addressed annually through policy, prevention education, and active intervention. The district's Bullying Policy and Procedures can be found at the Student Services website at:

http://www.ripn.k12.wi.us/cms_files/resources/RA%20Bullying%20Policy%20and%20Procedures%20Final.pdf

Reporting Tips:

Here are a few tips if you are a parent needing to report bullying to a school.

- ◆ Remain calm. Listen to your child and assure him or her that the incident will be taken seriously.
- ◆ Write down what your child says so that you can remember the details.
- ◆ You may wish to talk with your child's teacher first for any background information that may be helpful.
- ◆ Do not contact the suspected bully or his/her parents directly.
- ◆ Keep an open line of communication with the school to monitor the situation.

Reporting Options:

There are several methods for reporting suspected bullying.

- ◆ Contact your child's school counselor or principal.
- ◆ Make a report in person.
- ◆ Complete the Bullying Reporting Form available online at:
http://www.ripn.k12.wi.us/cms_files/resources/Bullying%20Reporting%20Form.pdf
- ◆ Submit the completed reporting form to the building's principal.