Warning Signs Indicating Possible Bullying Behavior

Please check each of the following indicators for the student who you suspect may be bullying others. Students who are displaying these warning signs may be engaging in bullying behavior (although these can be signs of other concerns as well). Students who are experiencing one or more of these signs or symptoms should be referred to an appropriate adult at school (school counselor, principal, school behavior specialist) to determine if they are bullying and if disciplinary consequences are necessary.

Characteristics

- Student enjoys feeling more powerful than others
- Student enjoys controlling others
- Student is dominating over peers
- Student manipulates peers
- Student is popular
- Student is physically stronger/larger than peers
- Student is impulsive
- Student is competitive
- Student is a poor loser
- Student is arrogant and/or boastful
- Student derives satisfaction from others’ discomfort, pain, or fear
- Student equates “respect” with fear
- Student has little empathy for others
- Student has little compassion for others
- Student is unable/unwilling to see things from another person’s perspective
- Student defends own actions by insisting it was the other person’s fault
- Student is good at hiding negative behaviors so adults will not notice them
- Student enjoys conflicts
- Student displays little emotion when discussing own part in conflict
- Student blames others for problems
- Student refuses to accept personal responsibility for negative behaviors
- Student shows little remorse for negative behaviors
- Student lies to avoid consequences for actions
- Student attacks others before they can attack him/her
- Student interprets others’ actions as hostile
- Student tests authority by pushing the limits
- Student disregards school rules and class rules
- Student is defiant and oppositional toward authority figures
- Student seeks out attention
- Student enjoys negative attention just as much as positive attention
- Student attracts negative attention from others
- Student is street smart; has strong self-esteem
- Student is mainly concerned with own pleasure and well-being
- Student has antisocial traits
- Student lacks social skills
- Student has difficulty fitting into groups
- Student has group of friends that he/she is able to control
- Student has group of friends that he/she is able to get them to do what he/she desires
- Student has problems at school
- Student has problems at home
- Student has poor coping skills
- Student is hot-headed
- Student is easily frustrated
- Student’s view of violence is positive
- Student gets into frequent fights
- Student is sometimes injured in fights
- Student vandalizes property
- Student uses alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs
- Student is truant from school
- Student carries a weapon
- Student drops out of school