

What to do if...

... the child with learning disorder is bullied in the classroom?

What is bullying?

Children with learning disorders are more vulnerable and more likely to be bullied. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive, repeated behavior among children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Bullying may include physical violence, sexual violence, threats, teasing, social exclusion or other psychological violence.

Here is the list of ideas that you can apply in your classroom:

- Create an open and safe environment to communicate with your students
- Discuss the forms of bullying with all your students
- Teach them to see and identify bullying signs
- Encourage them to stand up against bullying behavior or to report it to you or another adult
- Make it safe for them to report bullying incidents
- Respond quickly and consistently to every bullying incident
- Speak with the victim separately and privately
- Speak with the bully separately and privately
- Develop appropriate interventions for both the bully and the victim
- Help children to discover themselves and find ways to feel good about themselves

Some examples of activities:

Create a safe space for expression

- Not every child is open and expressive enough to talk about their school day, feeling and experiences, especially if they experienced negative one. Therefore, to assist and encourage them to talk about their issues and report a bullying behavior you can place a piece of paper somewhere at a strategic and accessible place in the classroom where they could write or draw what is in their mind without any pressure. For example: draw a face which express how you feel today. You can create a weekly routine in your school calendar (like “sharing Fridays”) where you can reflect on all the thoughts written on this journal and talk with your children about it.