

## **BABY BULLIES**

*Topic: Bullying and Young Children*

### **The Facts**

Playground research (observation of young children) finds:

- There is one incident of bullying every seven minutes
  - Adult intervention occurs in 4% of the incidents
  - Peer intervention occurs in 11% of the incidents
- (Stop Bullying Now, Stan Davis, 2002)

### **Start a Conversation with Your Kids**

1. Ask your child: How does it make you feel when someone makes fun of you?
2. Do you know anyone who bullies other kids? Have you ever seen someone being bullied? What did you do?
3. Have *you* ever teased or bullied someone? Talk about it. How do you feel about it now?
4. What can you do to stop children from bullying others or being hurt by a bully?

### **Advice From the Experts**

There are several different types of bullying:

- **Physical** – Hitting, kicking, tripping or pushing another child. It also involves taking other children's possessions, damaging other people's property or hiding someone's personal items. Boys are most likely to use this type of bullying.
- **Psychological** – Name-calling, teasing, or making remarks about someone's culture, religion, physical appearance, disabilities or medical condition. It also involves bossiness, intimidating others and making threats.
- **Relational** – Socially isolating other children by intentionally excluding them or spreading rumors about them. Girls typically use this type of bullying, which often goes undetected.

The bullying relationship is characterized by an imbalance of power. There are generally two types of victims:

- **Passive** – Stereotypical image of a bullied child; avoids confrontation, is quiet and does not defend him/herself from the bully. Often the passive victim will cry or become withdrawn.
- **Reactive** – Less common; provokes the attack by becoming aggressive or disruptive. Sometimes referred to as "bully/victims" because it is difficult to see which one they are. Sometimes, *victims* of bullies transform into these.

