

Please Be My Friend

BREAKING THE SILENCE
CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

The Scenario:

During recess, you notice that a group of 1st grade girls constantly rebuffs the attempts of a shy, little boy who wants to play with them. They call him names and tell him that they wish he'd die. What do you do?

Discussion Begins

What do you do?

Do you report? If so, to whom? If so, when? If you don't, what might happen to the little boy? To the girls? To you? To your school? To LAUSD?

If you report and the Local Law Enforcement Agency or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) tells you...

...to **handle it administratively**, what do you do next?

...**they will investigate**, what do you do next?



Legal Response

Willful cruelty constitutes child abuse. It is very unlikely, however, that statements by 1st grade girls can create a reasonable suspicion of child abuse. The determination of whether reasonable suspicion exists is, however, a decision you must make. If there is reasonable suspicion that child abuse occurred, a Suspected Child Abuse Report must be filed with either the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the Local Law Enforcement Agency.

Other Considerations

This conduct may constitute bullying. As such, you should report the conduct to an administrator who will, in turn, follow the procedures outlined in the Antibullying Policy Bulletin (BUL-1038.1).

Listen

Listen carefully, pay attention, and convey your concern and interest in his well-being. Ask open-ended questions as needed to engage him and help him feel safe.

Protect

Intervene immediately. All adults on campus have a responsibility to ensure a safe learning environment. Bullying is not tolerated.

Connect

Communicate with the students' teacher(s) regarding this situation. Every school site has protocols, systems, and resources to support and address student safety and well-being. This is an opportunity to become familiar with and use the procedures, policies, and resources at your work site.

Model

Maintain a professional and calm level of emotions and reactions. Do not express shock or anger at the possible perpetrator(s) or event.

Teach

This would be a good opportunity to discuss bullying and being tolerant and inclusive of others. Established curricula and/or resources are available through your Discipline Foundation Team.

Emotional Support