



Bullying at Camp: Short Activity & Scenarios

Time:

15+ minutes

Materials needed:

- Printed scenarios

Internal Talking Points:

- Bullying is typically characterized by a pattern of behavior that is repeated over a prolonged period of time and intended to deliberately hurt, make fun of, embarrass, or exclude others.
- There is usually an imbalance of power in bullying. This imbalance can be related to size or age, but it also can be created by popularity (social status), race, ethnicity, faith, gender, sexual orientation (real or perceived), or socioeconomic status.
- Often, the severity of bullying will escalate over time, starting out as name-calling and progressing toward physical violence or even peer-to-peer sexual abuse.

Instructions:

1. Break staff into five groups
2. Give each group one of the bullying scenarios
3. Prompt each group to read their scenario and then identify possible responses or interventions they could utilize to stop the bullying behaviors
4. Once each group is done discussing, have them read the scenario to the larger group and summarize their responses/interventions
5. Once everyone has shared, facilitate a conversation with all staff:
 - What was your biggest takeaway from this activity?
 - During camp, what times or activities do you find to be the most difficult to supervise and catch bullying behaviors?
 - What layers of protection can we put into place to prevent bullying this summer?
 - When does intervening become challenging, and how can you overcome those challenges?
6. To conclude the activity, remind staff of your camp's zero-tolerance policy of bullying, and how they can report any of these behaviors

Scenarios:

Scenario 1

Every morning during free play, a group of campers play tag together in the camp field, and Kristi makes repeated attempts to join in and make friends. Every day, the same group of kids consistently ignore her, roll their eyes, and walk away whenever she approaches. This pattern continues day after day, leaving Kristi feeling rejected and isolated.

Scenario 2

One afternoon, a group of campers embark on a trail hike. Ryan, who struggles with his weight, lags behind the group. A couple of his peers start making snide remarks about his size, loudly commenting on how he's slowing everyone down. Ryan tries to ignore them, but their hurtful words make him feel self-conscious and unworthy.

Scenario 3

Every summer, the same campers in Cabin Sunshine return. Jamie, the only new camper of the summer has been experiencing ongoing hazing. The hazing started off small, until one evening, all the campers gathered together to steal Jamie's belongings and hide them in various places around the cabin. Jamie woke up the next morning to find her personal items missing and felt deeply violated and upset by the invasion of privacy. The hazing has left her feeling unwelcome and unsure if she belongs at the camp.

Scenario 4

Every evening, all of the campers gather around the campfire to sing and reflect on the day. During this time, a group of older campers consistently target a younger camper named Alex. They use the cover of darkness to push Alex out of his seat and laugh as he scrambles to get up from the floor and find a new place to sit. Despite Alex's pleas for them to stop, the older campers continue this behavior night after night, leaving Alex feeling fearful and vulnerable.

Scenario 5

One day during arts and crafts, all the campers were drawing pictures to send back home. Adam quietly drew a picture of his family, including his sister and two dads. Some campers noticed and begin teasing him, and mocking his family structure. The teasing continued throughout the day leaving Alex feeling isolated and unwelcome.