

10 Top Tips for Empowering the Child

• BY MRS. MILLER, MS. ED

Your elementary-aged child came home from school crying. It sounds like an painful case of classic bullying. Here are some useful tips you can use for immediate impact.

What works:

At Recess:

- Play or stand with other children near the teachers who are on recess duty.
- 2 Join a game with classmates who are friendly.
- Walk away from kids who are teasing you, walk in the direction of teachers.

At Lunch:

- (4) Sit within eyesight of the teacher.
- Sit with friends.

In General:

- 6 Stand or sit straight and tall, with your head held high and shoulders back, rather than slouched.
- 7 If someone insults or embarrasses you, look disinterested.
- Tell an adult who can help you.

On the bus or walking to/from school:

- Sit with friends near the front within eyesight of the driver.
- If you walk home, walk with two or more friends or with older friends.

Kids who bully often do it
to have "fun" at someone
else's expense. That's why
the best approach is
to look disinterested and
walk away - towards adults.

Here are some answers to respond, but be sure to walk away after you say it!:

"Don't do that"

"Don't say that to me."

"Really? I didn't know that."

"Good to know."

"That's ridiculous/silly/dumb."

"Amazing!"

"Stop!"

"It's not OK."

BONUS TIPS

What doesn't work:

- Standing alone at recess, or while waiting for the bus, sitting in the corner of the lunchroom or lunch table.
- 2 Slouching, looking sad.
- (Insulting back: For example, if someone says:

 "Your glasses look weird." Don't say back, "Well, your glasses also look weird." That will prompt more insults.

 (Look disinterested, or use one of the responses above, walk away towards adults.)
- **Debating:** For example if someone says: You are dumb. Don't say back, "No I'm not." And don't make a face at them. That will prompt more insults (Look disinterested or use one of the responses above, walk away - towards adults)

Ready for some magic?

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