

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In order to maintain a healthy learning and safe playing environment, Subiaco Children's Centre are taking a preventive stance against bullying and inappropriate behaviour.

Bullying is classified as behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual or group, either **physically or emotionally**.

IT IS ALL ABOUT BIG ON LITTLE, MANY ON FEW, OLDER ON YOUNGER.

In other words, an imbalance of power. Bystanders who witness this behaviour and do not report them to an educator also risk the possibility of negative consequences. Please encourage your child to report any child/ren who **repeatedly** exhibit the following behaviours:

- **verbal** e.g. name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
- **physical** e.g. hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- **social** e.g. ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- **psychological** e.g. spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones.

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders.

It is important your child/ren understand what to do if they are being bullied or feel threatened at any time. These are actions they can take:

- Ask the child bullying them to stop in a calm, clear voice.
- If speaking up seems too hard or not safe, walk away and stay away. Don't fight back. **It is important that your child finds an educator as soon as the incident has occurred so we are aware and can address the issue on the spot.**

Please follow the link below to understand more and how we could stop bullying together.

<http://news.bullyingnoway.gov.au/the-facts/Pages/default.aspx>

Regards,

Josephine Ooi