

When Your Kid is the Bully (*Interview Transcripts*)

Joseph Siegel, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, OSF HealthCare

“The power difference is interesting, especially with kids, because it can change depending on one location or another. For instance, the power structure amongst kids might be different at the bus stop than it is in an after school activity or at school itself in the hallway. The position of power that the kids occupy might change dramatically throughout the day, so bullying opportunities might change dramatically throughout the day also.” (:33)

Joseph Siegel, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, OSF HealthCare

“Are they being more destructive? Do you feel like there are changes in their anger level? Who are they hanging out with now – has that changed? Have you started becoming uncomfortable with the group of people that they are associated with outside of school?” (:18)

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“There is nothing wrong with being assertive. Assertive is a lot different than being violent. And the assertiveness is what I refer to when I say that it is okay to use humor. It is okay to say, ‘I prefer you don’t do that’ or even just saying ‘stop’ in a loud voice and then walking away. That’s being assertive. Once you get into violence, I am not sure where that is going to lead. That is assuming a lot of risk.” (:30)

Joseph Siegel, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, OSF HealthCare

“You may need to seek out more professional, therapeutic help for your child. These things happen sometimes. You have disorders where people are just oppositional or they get violent. All these things can be resolved with the right kind of therapy sessions and just trying to understand what’s behind these experiences that they have.” (:23)