

Bullying isn't just on the playground

Run time - :35

ANCHOR LEDE: The issue may not be widespread, but experts say bullying can occur in senior living facilities. Shunning, gossip, vandalism and even physical scuffles have been reported across the country. Tim Ditman of OSF HealthCare has tips to deal with the problem.

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OSF psychologist Doctor Ari Lakritz says seniors can lash out due to long-held biases, untreated mental health issues or just general crankiness.

He says senior caregivers should step up to correct the problem.

**\*\*\*SOUNDBITE\*\*\***

**Dr. Ari Lakritz [ARR-ee // LACK-ritz], OSF HealthCare psychologist**

**"A clinician not just reacting to different problems in the facility but proactively speaking with residents at least for a few minutes each day. As well as having a really good referral system set up to psychiatrists, psychologists or another type of clinician." (:17)**

I'm Tim Ditman.

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ANCHOR TAG: Facilities can also hold anger management classes or not allow residents to claim things in common areas.

Families should also keep a close eye on their loved ones for mood changes, like a sudden desire to move out. Drop in for lunch, and report bullying if you see it.