

FRIENDLY TEASING	HURTFUL TEASING	PEER CONFLICTS	BULLYING
Equal power	Unequal power	Equal power	Imbalance of power
Neutral topic	Sensitive topic	Occurs occasionally	Occurs repeatedly
Purpose is to be playful	Purpose is to upset	Accidental	Intentional & serious; no remorse
Joins relationships	Excludes	Negotiations	Seeks to gain power
Funny to both parties	Sarcastic	Relationship is valued	Victim is vulnerable
		Effort to resolve	No effort to resolve
Friendly Teasing:	Hurtful Teasing:	Peer Conflict:	Bullying:
One student comments to another student that he should turn his/her jersey inside out because his favorite team lost last night	One girl comments to another girl that she looks fat in the outfit she is wearing	Two students have a disagreement on the playground about which one will be the pitcher in kickball	One student repeatedly threatens another student that if he walks down a specific hallway he will get "beat up"

- ❑ Teasing, just like bullying, is a *power issue*. Bullies use hurtful teasing to establish or maintain power over someone.
- ❑ It is *never OK* to tease people about a personal topic they are sensitive about.
- ❑ Before you tease someone, *ask yourself why* you are doing it.
- ❑ Your *intention* is what counts. If your teasing is intended to make someone feel left out, they you are involved in hurtful teasing.

Remember...The person being teased makes the decision about whether the teasing is friendly or hurtful. Just because the teaser says "I was kidding" doesn't make it okay.