

Conflict Vs. Mean Vs. Bullying

Conflict

- Not planned or targeted; in the heat of the moment
- One or both parties are upset; equal power
- All parties have the opportunity to express their opposing views
- Everyone takes responsibility for their actions
- An effort is made by all parties to solve the problem

Mean

- Intentional
- Can hurt others feelings and they can be upset or angry
- Usually thoughtless, poor manners, and based in anger
- Behavior is often regretted
- Needs to be addressed and should NOT be ignored

Bullying

- An actual or perceived characteristic is involved
- The target of the bullying is upset
- May be insulting or demeaning
- Power imbalance between bully and target
- The target wants to stop the bully's behavior

Conflict Vs. Bullying

Conflict can include name calling and teasing. Bullying must be physical, verbal, or written and be targeting a perceived characteristic such as race, religion, or disability. If there is no perceived characteristic being targeted, then the situation may be considered a conflict.