



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS EXPERIENCING BULLYING

Bullying is intentional, aggressive behavior (verbal, physical or online) meant to hurt another person. Approximately 1 in every 5 children is bullied at some point during their lives.

Children with NF1 are at greater risk for experiencing bullying because their peers may perceive them as “different.”

In these situations, we recommend that the following steps be taken:

1. Speak with the school about the bullying behavior. Ask if you or your child can talk to the other students about what NF1 is. Children are less likely to bully others when they understand situation.
2. Work with your child on confidence building by having him or her develop skills, or participate in activities, that he or she feels good about. Growing confidence will help your child make good friends and build healthy relationships.
3. Visit *Violence Protection Works* [<http://www.violencepreventionworks.org>] to find excellent resources about what bullying is and how to prevent it, including the Olweus® Bullying Prevention Program.