

Conflict vs. Bullying

Conflict	Bullying
Between Friends/Equals/Peers	Not friends/Imbalance of Power
Spontaneous/Occasional	Repeated Over Time
Accidental/Not Planned	Intentional
Little or No Serious/Lasting Harm	Physical/Emotional Harm
Equal Emotional Reaction to the Incident	Unequal Emotional Reaction to the Incident
Sense of Remorse	No Remorse, Blames the Target
Desire to Solve the Problems	No Effort to Solve the Problem

Conflict Can Be:

Rude	Mean
Rude = Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.	Mean = Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice.)
<p>From kids, rudeness might look more like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Burping in someone’s face * Jumping ahead inline *Bragging about achieving the highest grade *Throwing a crushed up pile of leaves in someone’s face <p>On their own, any of these behaviors could appear as elements of bullying, but when looked at in context, incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsiderate, based on thoughtlessness, or poor manners, but not meant to actually hurt someone.</p>	<p>The main distinction between “rude” and “mean” behavior has to do with intention; while rudeness is often unintentional, mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone.</p> <p>Kids are mean to each other when they criticize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Clothing *Appearance *Intelligence *Coolness, *Or anything else they can find to put down someone. <p>Meanness also sounds like words spoken in anger that is often regretted in short order.</p>
<p>Conflict is different from bullying but it still requires a response from adults. Conflict often results in discipline or restorative activities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Source: Kent School District</p>	

Cross Reference: JICK RSU9 Initial Incident Report Form
JICK-E2 Bullying and Cyberbullying Responding Form
JICK-E3 Bullying and Cyberbullying Remediation Form

Adopted: September 10, 2019