

## Article of Interest - Bullying in Schools



### Addressing Bullying in the IEP

*from Ideal Lives*

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Bullies -- they seem to be a constant in our schools and a frequent source of pain for our children with special needs. If the current anti-bully program at your child's school isn't addressing the practical issues your child faces everyday, then it's time to consider adding some direct responses to your child's IEP (individualized education program).

PACER, the Minnesota parent training and information center recently released a handout with some great IEP ideas for parents to think about. Here's just a sample:

The IEP could include goals and objectives that address the following:

- . Improve social skills such as sharing, taking turns, or thinking before acting
- . Participate in friendship group to practice social skills with peers under direction of school staff
- . Increase self-advocacy skills so child can say "no" or "stop that"
- . Improve speech intelligibility so child can interact with peers

Examples of supplementary aids and services, program modifications or supports:

- . Hallway or playground monitoring by school staff
- . Allowing child to leave class early to avoid hallway incidents
- . Use social stories to help child understand difficult situations when they occur
- . In-service school staff to understand child's disability and vulnerability
- . In-service classroom peers to help them understand child's disability and/or child's use of assistive technology, paraprofessional, or interpreter (i.e. things that are "different")

PACER has also developed a new curriculum on bullying to help parents and school deal with the issue of bullying more effectively, to learn more about the curriculum, visit <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/index.asp>