

 An official website of the United States government, Department of Justice. [Here's how you know](#) 



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Careers](#) | [Subscribe](#) | 

Search



[Program Offices](#) 

[News Center](#) 

[Grants/Funding](#) 

[For Congress](#)

[NCJRS Library](#) 

[Topics](#) 

[Training](#) 

[Home](#)

NCJRS Virtual Library

The Virtual Library houses over 235,000 criminal justice resources, including all known OJP works.

[Click here to search the NCJRS Virtual Library](#)

Worse Than Sticks and Stones: Lessons From Research on Ridicule

NCJ Number: 189339

Journal:

Forum Volume: 18 Issue: 2 Dated: Summer 2001

Pages: 1,5,9

Author(s): Larry K. Brendtro Ph.D.

Date Published: 2001

Length: 3 pages

Downloads

No download available

Length: 6 pages

Annotation

This report reviews research that shows ridicule as a form of bullying can have devastating effects on the self-esteem of children and youth; suggestions are offered for countering such behavior.

Abstract

Ridicule is a variant of bullying behavior. It comes in many forms, including mocking, insults, and "humor" designed to make the person an object of scorn or derision. Insults can target a person's clothing, appearance, or personality, as well as demean family, race, gender, sexual orientation, or values. In the last decade, research has shown that the long-term effects of ridicule can be as damaging to victims as bullying behavior that involves physical aggression. Changing such behavior involves nurturing empathy for others and challenging their distorted thinking. The most effective means of preventing and changing ridiculing behavior is to create a caring community where it is unacceptable to hurt other people in any way. Although this may seem idealistic, concentrated interventions such as the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP) have been shown to arrest trends in hostile thinking and aggression. Teacher ratings of RCCP show significant student gains in emotional control, prosocial behavior, and academic achievement (Aber, Brown, and Henrich, 1999; Lantieri, 2000). The curriculum can be downloaded at www.dont-laugh.org.

Availability

[Find in a Library](#)

Related Topics

[Bullying](#)

[Juvenile victims](#)

[Psychological victimization effects](#)

[School delinquency programs](#)

[Sexual orientation](#)

Additional Details

Publication Article
Format:
Publication Report (Study/Research)
Type:
Language: English
Country: United States of America



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS