

CONFLICT VS. BULLYING: HOW TO HANDLE BULLYING

“Conflict” and “bullying” are sometimes used interchangeably, but serious differences distinguish them.

Conflict is disagreement, differing opinions, or a clash of interests. With conflict, students have equal power even if they don't agree or don't like each other. Conflict is natural and normal; it's how people learn how to problem-solve.

Bullying is a deliberate and repeated act of intentional harm, usually in an aggressive form. It can be physical, verbal, or emotional (or a combination). There is usually a power imbalance, with the student being bullied feeling intimidated or helpless.

Note: if you are witness to bodily harm, threatening or violent behavior, or a weapon is involved, call 911.

If you have identified that bullying is happening at your studio, YPAD™ has the following recommendations:

- 1 Document your suspicions. Write down any observations or what students have told you. Respond calmly and promptly to both students, separately. Then, reach out to their parents.
- 2 To the student experiencing bullying and their parent(s):
 - Ask the student what would help her feel safer
 - Offer advice to the student on what to do when the bullying happens (do not advise them to ignore it).
- 3 To the student who is the alleged bully and their parent(s):
 - Remind the student of any formal consequences from your written policies or code of conduct.
 - Help the student recognize what they did wrong and encourage them to write an apology (do not force face-to-face contact with both students).
- 4 Refer either student to a professional counselor if mental health support is needed.
- 5 Follow up with both students (and parents, if needed) to ensure the situation improves.

Sources:

[Stop Bullying](#)

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