Teasing is often part of growing up — almost every child experience it. But it isn't always as offensive as it seems. Teasing becomes bullying once it's repetitive or once there is a conscious intent to harm another kid. It can be in the form of verbal abuse (making threats, calling names), psychological abuse (excluding children, spreading rumors), or physical abuse (hitting, pushing, taking a child's possessions).

Bullying behavior is prevalent regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, and cultural background. An estimated 20 to 30 percent of school-age children are involved in bullying incidents, as either perpetrators or victims. Bullying will begin as early as educational institution and intensify throughout shift stages.

Bullying victims are often shy and tend to be physically weaker than their peers. They may also have inadequate social skills and little self-esteem, which makes it difficult for them to stand up for themselves. Bullies contemplate these kids’ safe targets because they typically do not retaliate.

If your kid is the victim of bullying, he may suffer physically and emotionally, and his schoolwork will likely show it. Grades drop because, they are losing focus, most probably wondering what they did wrong. If bullying prevails, they may be afraid to attend classes in school. Problems with low self-esteem and depression will last into adulthood and interfere with personal and skilled lives.

Bullies are affected too, as they grow older; they may have difficulty creating positive relationships. They are more prone to use tobacco, alcohol and even drugs. Some studies have even found a significant relation with later criminal activities.
References:

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