

PARENT INFORMATION 4

The Differences Between Teasing & Bullying & The Triple A's 4 Teasing

Bullying, and its harmful effects and outcomes, is a topic that now receives a lot of media attention - and this has been helpful. It has, however, also meant that the term has become over-used, describing – particularly by children - any form of criticism, fault-finding and teasing, meaning confusion about what **are** the differences between these behaviours – and also how to address them.

Bullying is a HIGHWAY HAZARD - serious in nature and deserving of immediate attention; Teasing is a HIGHWAY BUMP - it has the potential to develop into bullying if the warning signs aren't attended to. However, the child who has a good range of HIGHWAY TOOLS will usually be able to prevent the teasing escalating to bullying.

Teasing is not always meant to be mean. There is **Cruel Teasing** which is meant to be hurtful or humiliating, and there is **Cool Teasing** which could be unintentional, a clumsy attempt to break the ice, or someone trying to have fun. This doesn't mean, however, that Cool Teasing can't - and doesn't - often go too far – and a child also needs to know how to address that.

The Triple A's 4 Teasing

The HIGHWAY TOOL of The Triple A's 4 Teasing gives a child a range of skills that they can use immediately. They are:

AGREE: Defuses what the teaser has said, e.g., “Yep, that's about right!”

ASK A QUESTION: Tackles the teasing content directly and appears the person being teased is actually interested e.g., “Have you only just noticed my freckles?”

ASK TO STOP: Tells the teaser directly, clearly and calmly, that enough is enough.

This week your child has learned about The Triple A's 4 Teasing, focusing on the Agree Response. It would be extremely beneficial to spend some time talking about The Triple A's 4 Teasing, and practise the Agree Response. You will find the poster on the next page very useful, so keep it handy.

REFLECTION POINT:

How much teasing happens in your home? Teasing between siblings can get out of hand very quickly. Think about modelling The Triple A's 4 Teasing this week and getting your child/ren to also practise.

The Triple A's 4 Teasing



AGREE

Jokingly agree with the teaser:

"Yep, that's about right."

USEFUL FOR COOL TEASING.



ASK A QUESTION

Ask about what the teaser has said:

"So, you've never seen my glasses before?"

USEFUL FOR COOL AND CRUEL

TEASING.



ASK TO STOP

Tell the teaser that the joke is over:

"It was funny the first time. Stop! Now!"

USEFUL FOR COOL AND CRUEL

TEASING - BUT MOSTLY FOR

CRUEL TEASING.