

Is your child being bullied?

The Issues for Looked after Children

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What is bullying?

- Many definitions.....
- Most consider it to be
 - deliberately hurtful
 - repeated, often over a period of time
 - difficult for victims to defend against.



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Bullying can take many forms

- Physical, hitting, kicking and taking belongings
- Verbal, name calling, insulting and making insulting remarks
- Indirect, spreading nasty stories, exclusion for social groups and being made the subject of malicious rumors



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Who is involved in bullying?

- Bullying is widespread
- Bullying happens in many schools.
- Research suggests that most bullying in primary schools happens in the playground
- In secondary schools it is most likely to happen outdoors, in corridors and toilets
- Out of school, it is most likely to be online through social media



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Bullying and children who are looked after

- Some factors which suggest children are more likely to be bullied are also factors common to many looked after children.
- Lacking close friends at school, impact of moving schools.
- Being different, many are bullied because they are looked after.
- Having special educational needs and disabilities.




Young People's Voices

What do looked after children say?

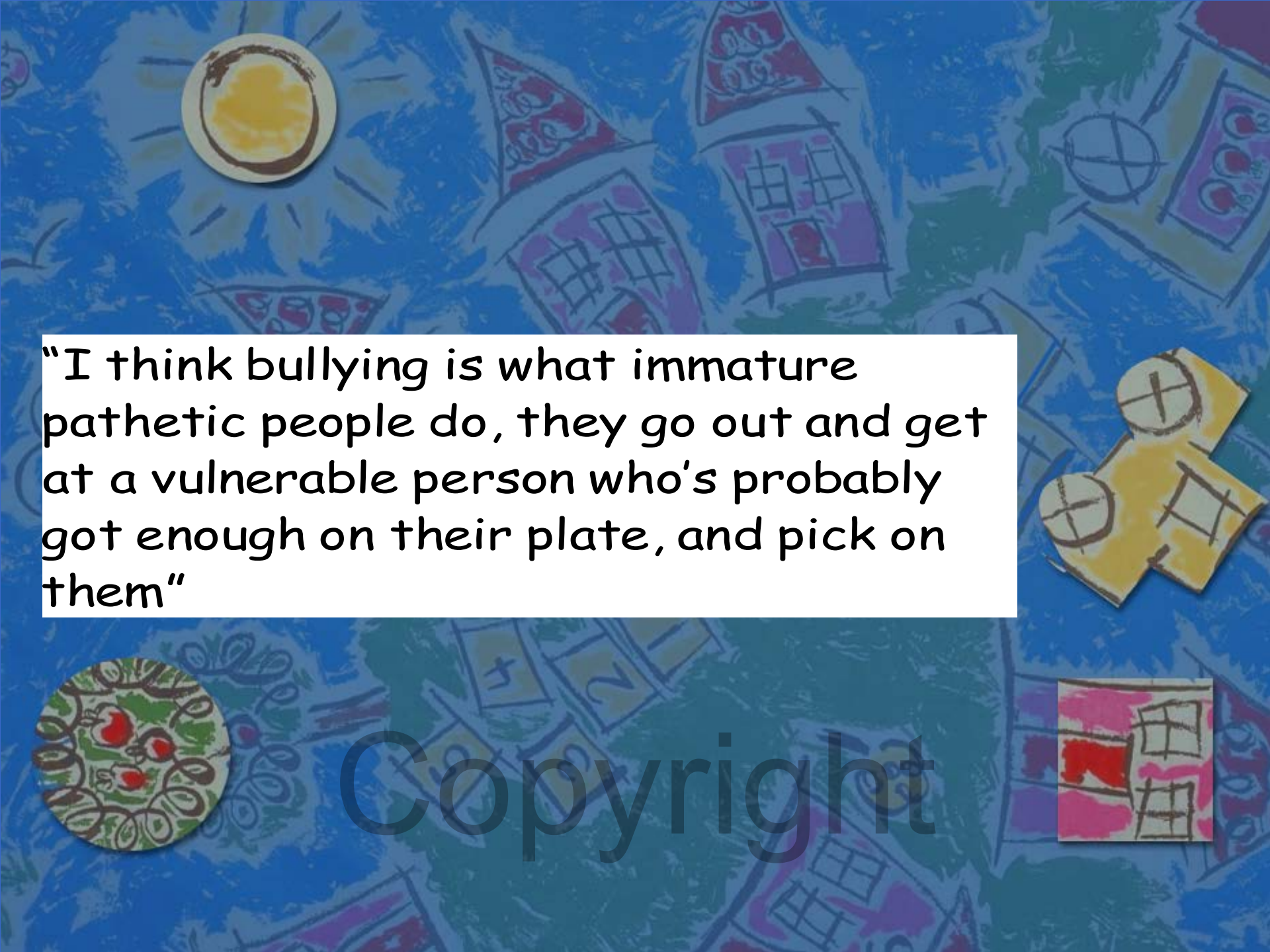
46% OF YOUNG PEOPLE RESPONDING
SAID THEY HAD BEEN BULLIED AT
SCHOOL

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31% OF THESE HAD TOLD SOMEONE
BUT THE BULLYING HAD NOT
STOPPED.

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"I think bullying is what immature pathetic people do, they go out and get at a vulnerable person who's probably got enough on their plate, and pick on them"



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"Bullying is wrong because it makes a person feel like the bottom of a shoe and like me it changed me into a worse person"

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Where children live


There are also some patterns which appear when bullying experiences are compared with where children live. These show 50% of children living with foster carers have been bullied. The number declines for children in residential homes as 3 of these 10 have been bullied and the two children in residential schools both have been bullied.

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Type of School

The numbers of Looked After Children being bullied when compared with the school they attend is however rather high.

- C 31 out of 72 children of primary age have been bullied
 - C 40 out of 81 children of secondary age have been bullied
 - C 9 out of 23 children in special schools have been bullied
- 



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Strategies in school to tackle bullying

- Curriculum approaches
- Co-operative group work
- Circle time
- Circle of friends
- Befriending
- School watch
- Support groups



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Strategies continued.....

- Mediation by adults
- Mediation by peers
- Active listening / counselling based approaches
- Assertiveness training
- Restorative justice



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Bullying - Don't Suffer in Silence

- All schools must have a whole school anti-bullying policy
- ACE Education Advice. Leaflets and advice.
- www.ace-ed.org.uk
- Bullying online, sample letters
- www.bullying.co.uk



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www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying

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Children who are Looked After

- Children looked after are 5 times more likely to be bullied than their peers
- Most people who told someone the bullying stopped - Who can they tell?
- Learning Mentors and the Designated Teacher in schools are there to help

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Because I'm looked after

- "I was bullied because they knew I was in foster care and my family was falling apart" Girl aged 16
- Pupils take the mickey out of me and ask why my mum can't take care of me" Girl aged 12



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