

Dear 4Su Families:

Dealing with **teasing** was the topic of a recent Open Circle lesson. We talked about what teasing is and the kind of teasing that goes on at school. We discussed how it feels to be teased and how you can tell whether teasing is okay with someone or is hurtful to them. Sometimes teasing can be a Double D (dangerous or destructive) behavior, such as when it involves hurtful ridicule or name-calling, when it happens over and over, or when people gang up on someone to tease. In these cases, students should ask an adult to intervene to help.

At home, have a conversation with your child about teasing. Tell him/her about times you have been teased. Was it okay with you, or did it make you feel bad? Ask your child has ever heard teasing that was hurtful to someone. Discuss some ways to handle teasing. Encourage your child to be sensitive to the feelings of other children.

Yours truly,

Ms. Sullivan

Literature Connections

Here are some books that relate to the topics we discussed in Open Circle. You might want to check out one or two at the library and read with your child.

Polacco, Patricia, *Thank you, Mr. Falker*. Philomel Books, 1998

A student is teased because she can't read. A sensitive teacher provides emotional and academic support to help Trisha regain her self-confidence.

Yashima, Tara. *Crow Boy*. Puffin Books, 1976.

A shy Japanese schoolboy is ignored or teased by his classmates until a sensitive teacher encourages him to display his special talents.