

No Blame Approach Training: Role play John

This is a sample of a role play for the No Blame Approach training dealing with a case of bullying. It includes a description of the situation and a short characterization of the involved students and can be used for the role play meeting with the affected student (role play 1) and meeting with the support group (role play 2).

Instruction for implementation of role play 1: Distribute copies of the situation to the role players in the first role play who represent the teacher and the student. Allow the teacher to take some time (appr. 5 min.) to prepare the meeting and review the guideline. The observers will receive an evaluation sheet.

1) Role description and situation for the role play: meeting with the affected student:

John, 14 years old , 7th grade, is being bullied by classmates since several weeks. The others laugh at him, roll their eyes or sigh when he tries to contribute to the lesson. His pens are destroyed and books are hidden. He is confronted with verbal put downs. In the school yard he is secretly pushed and beaten on the back. Lately, his rain jacket was full of mud.

Since a few days John does not attend school anymore. You have invited him to talk to you and he shows up.

Instruction for implementation of role play 2: Each role player will receive a copy of the description of the situation plus only his/her individual role instruction all other role characterizations will be deleted. The observers will receive an evaluation sheet. Also, follow detailed instructions for the preparation of the role play on the pages: "Meeting with the support group".

2) Role description and situation for the role play: meeting with the support group

John, 14 years old , 7th grade, is being bullied by classmates since several weeks. The others laugh at him, roll their eyes or sigh when he tries to contribute to the lesson. His pens are destroyed and books are hidden. He is confronted with verbal put downs. In the school yard he is secretly pushed and beaten on the back. Lately, his rain jacket was full of mud.

Roles: Bullies and assistants

Leader

You are the leader and initiator of the bullying. You enjoy giving John a hard time, you also incite others to beat or insult him. You know about everything what is going on since a lot of the bullying activities are your ideas/suggestions. But you are not only giving orders but also attack him personally.

Colluder 1

You admire the leader of the group, he/she is self confident and strong. However, sometimes you think that X, the leader, is going too far. Some actions are not funny anymore and X has crossed a

border. But you still continue to follow X' orders and suggestions because you want to be part of the club.

Colluder 2

You just joined the class a few weeks ago. It's not easy to be accepted there and since you belong to the club your classmates are respecting you. You don't participate in the physical attacks because you don't believe that this is correct but being a newcomer you try to avoid attention and you are still eager to be a member of the club.

Colluder 3

You never liked John, you consider him to be a spoiled kid. He is always wearing modern and expensive clothes and shoes, things your parents cannot afford. So he deserves a little bit of "punishment".

Roles: friendly students

Class representative

You have been elected as class representative because your classmates appreciate your commitment for the issues of the class. You are not shy and speak your mind. Of course you have noticed that John is having a hard time in school and you are wondering whether this is bullying. When the teacher explains his/her concerns you fully understand and subsequently support him/her.

Supportive student 1

You saw that John was lately unhappy, although you don't particularly like him you think that nobody should be treated like this. You have observed a few "actions" against John and want this to stop. You are glad that finally one of the teachers is getting involved.

Supportive student 2

You are very upset about the way how John is treated, you are angry but you don't have the courage to confront the leader and his followers with their behavior. You want to support John but only if others are also getting active, you will never do the first step.

Supportive student 3

You have been John's friend since Kindergarten, you like him but you are afraid that if you show too much sympathy that you might be the next victim. On the other hand, you think that it's time that someone intervenes. You are ready to spend more time with John if there is no more danger that you might also get in trouble.