No Blame Approach Training: Role play Paul

This is a sample of a role play for the No Blame Approach training dealing with a case of cyberbullying. 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: 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:

Paul, 14 years old, feels devastated. He is obese which is already a big problem for him and now he found pictures in the internet showing him half naked in the locker room after gym class where he changed clothes. Someone must have taken a picture and uploaded it in the internet. Within seconds the photo was visible for the whole school.

The teacher noticed that Paul withdrew himself more and more during the last days and that there was a lot of giggling in class when Paul went by. He/she talks to him.

Instruction for implementation: Each participating 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 descriptions and situation for the role play: meeting with the support group:

Paul, 14 years old, feels devastated. He is obese which is already a big problem for him and now he found pictures in the internet showing him half naked in the locker room after gym class where he changed clothes. Someone must have taken a picture and uploaded it in the internet. Within seconds the photo was visible for the whole school.

Roles: Bully and assistants

Leader (Jacob)

You (Jacob) are the one who took the picture with his cell phone and uploaded it in the internet. You just found it funny and enjoyed how many other students liked the snapshot. You don't hold anything personal against Paul. Now you are surprised that Paul is such a sissy.

Colluder 1:

You think that Paul shouldn't be so sensitive, he is not the only one whose picture was flying around in school. This is normal nowadays.

Colluder 2:

In the beginning it was only a joke but now you start wondering whether the action was okay.

Roles: friendly students

Paul's friend/ Class representative

You (the class representative/friend) know that Paul is unhappy with his weight. And now this degrading picture! You tried to comfort him but it wasn't sufficient since the giggling went on.

Supportive student 1

You feel pity for Paul and can imagine how painful the situation is for him. However, the picture is all over the place and won't disappear any more.

Supportive student 2

You think that this is going too far. Paul is humiliated and can't defend himself. The offender and his clique should be punished.