Let's Talk! About Bullying

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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LET'S TALK! ABOUT BULLYING

October 11, 2011 by cpehrson

Born with a mild-to-moderate case of cerebral palsy, Tony Bartoli, was bullied in school from fourth to ninth grade.

“They (the bullies) made me a target because of my cerebral palsy,” he explains.

Bullying incidents started off as verbal, with name calling. When Bartoli progressed into middle school, the bullying turned physical. Incidents included being shoved in the hallway, or thumped on the back of the head while he was riding the school bus. Finally, the bullying stopped in the ninth grade after some of his peers started sticking up for him.

Bullying and teasing have become critical issues nationwide. Bullies prey on individuals with differences, making students with disabilities especially vulnerable to bullies. That puts our children as targets.

Bullying will continue to be a problem until people talk about the issue.

The Let’s Talk! topic this month is about bullying and what you or your child have experienced. Please tell us your story—what happened and how you handled it:

Have you or your child ever been bullied? Please share what happened.

How did you or your child deal with the incident? Did you tell someone about it?

What do you think is the solution to stopping bullying in the schools and beyond?

Ready, set....Let’s Talk!

Let us know of other topics that you would like to talk about.

(Note: All comments will be filtered to maintain confidentiality and appropriateness.)