

# CAMP SITUATIONS: HOW TO DEAL

**“ANNOYING KID:”** The camper who seems to “invite” bullying by obnoxious behavior — directed at kids or counselors. He/she seems to enjoy being a victim.

**What you can do:** Look for ways to engage/reward the camper when he/she is NOT being annoying. When the child is being more appropriate, say “I really liked the way you played with others during ...”

**“MEAN GIRL:”** Girls are much more likely to use gossiping/exclusion as forms of bullying than boys.

**What you can do:** Look for alliances and listen carefully to what’s going on in your bunk. If you hear hurtful talk, jump in immediately. “I happen to think Fran’s necklace is great” or “Jayne, you can sit with the group if you want to...in fact, I’m going to join you.”

**“CAMPERS BULLYING COUNSELORS:”** Some kids gang up against a counselor — and use their collective power to tease, ignore or play pranks.

**What you can do:** Remember, you’re the leader. Let campers know early in the summer that no-bullying rules apply to EVERYONE. Do not be ashamed if you’ve temporarily “lost control.” Seek help from upper staff.

**“COUNSELORS BULLYING CAMPERS:”** Counselors are responsible for campers’ welfare, but sometimes they can behave like bullies themselves — hitting, touching, stealing, threatening, teasing, or excluding campers.