

IN A DIFFERENT KEY:
THE AUTISM UNDERSTANDING TOOLKIT

BULLYING



INTRODUCTORY CONTEXT

(suggested)

The desire to belong is nearly universal. Almost all of us want to feel connected in some way to the people around us. But being “different” is often stigmatizing, and that sets up huge obstacles to inclusion for many autistic people. Unfortunately, this often starts when individuals are young, and still going to school. Being shunned at school – or worse – being actively bullied – becomes a scarring experience for many on the spectrum. This sequence from the documentary “In A Different Key” brings the voices of a few different autistic people who still remember what that was like.

KEY THEMES

- The experience of being bullied
- Why autistic students are vulnerable
- The potential for loneliness
- Lasting effects of being bullied
- Impact on suicide rates

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Why do you think autistic kids get bullied?
- What impact does childhood bullying have on the adult?
- What are steps teachers and other adults can take to stop the bullying?
- Do you think the experiences of being bullied as an adolescent affects an individual for a lifetime?
- What about adults: can't they experience bullying?