



INFORMATION SHEET

Age Group: **Children / Adolescents and Young Adults**

Sheet Title: **Bullying (Summary)**

The distinct profile of abilities in children with Asperger's Syndrome can result in them being at greater risk of being the target for bullying. This unusual profile of abilities, especially in the social domain, is not only recognised by parents and professionals, it is also very apparent to their peers. Some of the peers of a young child with Asperger's Syndrome will interact in a 'maternal' way, being protective and kind, while others will respond as 'predators' with malicious intentions of teasing and bullying what they regard as an easy and obvious target.

We promote the inclusion of children with Asperger's Syndrome with their age peers at school because this encourages social relationships with peers. However, there are distinct risks and one of these is the propensity of children with Asperger's Syndrome to be bullied.

Studies and reviews of the literature on bullying in childhood have indicated that the frequency and intensity of bullying is most likely between the ages of eight and fourteen years

There are some strategies that can be used in early childhood to try to 'immunise' the young child with Asperger's Syndrome from some of the long-term consequences that can have a significant impact on the child's or adult's mental health.