

Family Naturism Questions Part 3: Kids and Bullying Issues

Written by Felicity Jones

Tuesday, 03 October 2017 21:43 -

Previously: [How to Raise Naturist Kids Part 1](#) and [Part 2: Telling Others](#)

When parents worry about their kids telling the wrong people about naturism, they also worry about what could happen when kids tell their peers. Maybe their friends or classmates will think it's cool...or maybe they will see a reason to bully or pick on the kid.

Parents may fear that their child will tell the wrong "friend" who will then blab to other kids or students. Gossip about a student being a "nudist" could spread around a school or community really fast, especially since a lot of bullying now happens on social media. It can result in the child being ostracized, verbally harassed, physically attacked etc.



A lot of bullying now happens online and on social media (known as cyberbullying)

But in most cases it doesn't matter what characteristic a bully might be focusing on or what words they're using to taunt someone else. A kid who wants to bully will find something to latch on and attack, whether it's the victim's weight, appearance, hobbies, sexual orientation or an identity like "naturist."

The likelihood for bullying in regards to naturism seems greater just because naturism isn't

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Have there been cases of kids being harassed for being naturists?

Growing up as a naturist, I have heard a story or two over the years about nudist kids of previous generations getting taunted at school. I can't verify these stories, but I'm sure that it has happened to some poor souls out there. But I don't think it's been anywhere near commonplace, and kids have been much more likely to experience harassment that has nothing to do with naturism.

I personally was careful about which friends I told about naturism as a kid. As I mentioned before, I never got a negative reaction. Mainly friends responded that they thought it was cool or interesting and were curious about it. They may have even visited Rock Lodge with me if they'd been given the opportunity.

In high school I ran into a situation that other nudist teenagers had actually thought about and feared – a kid from my high school randomly showed up at Rock Lodge when I happened to be there. His father was on a construction job at the club so he tagged along. Admittedly I panicked when I first saw him, but nothing happened. He said hello, he got naked and enjoyed the beach like it was no big deal. And he didn't go around talking about me at school or anything like that.

What do naturist parents today think about bullying?

Continuing our interviews with naturist parents as in the last two articles of this series, we asked these same parents if they worry about bullying and if they'd ever run into a harassment situation that involved naturism.

Michael and Laurie (two girls ages 8 and 6): "We have thought about bullying quite a bit. I think we have prepared ourselves the best we can by creating a good base of nudist family friends that we hang out with on a consistent basis. Those families have good well-balanced children. We think that will give us a good example to counter act and use as a defense against bullying. We have seen bullying at this young age already. When we hear negativity from other children we do step in to the girl's defense. We explain to them that everyone doesn't have the same views of the human body that we do but it's ok, there is nothing wrong with our bodies. There is nothing to be ashamed of."

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