

Case study: Michael – primary school



Michael is a wheelchair user

“Some years ago, when I was at primary school, these kids that bullied found out how to put my chair onto manual and one day they went behind me and put it onto manual and wheeled me into a bush and the teacher knew about it and did not do anything about it. I went to the headteacher, after other things happened-name calling-‘cripple’ and having my bag taken from the back of my chair and thrown on the ground and they said it would have to have been an accident and said “oh it can’t have happened on purpose”.

They also said that I had special needs so I should get used to it as I would be bullied all my life. They also told me to stop playing out at break times “then I would not get bullied”. It made me feel very bad about myself.”

Questions

- Is what the other children are doing to Michael bullying?
- How do you think Michael feels about this?
- What should the school do?
- Write a story about what happens to Michael now