

Tattling or Telling:

Use the following scenarios, or have children brainstorm their own situations and discuss (or act out) whether they are examples of telling or tattling. Remind children of the difference.

Telling – Getting you or someone else out of trouble

Tattling – Getting someone into trouble

You see a classmate throwing rocks at another child on the playground?

Telling/ Reporting – The child may be being bullied, they may get seriously hurt.

You overhear 2 girls in the bathroom making fun of a new girl at your school?

Tattling – This is a difficult situation. If the girls are making threats you should tell an adult. If they are making fun of the girl, but she is not in direct harm, you may want to tell them that you think they are being unfair to the new girl. Tell them that their comments bother you and you would like them to stop. Standup for the new girl!

Telling/ Reporting – Talk with an adult you trust about this situation, how it makes you feel, and what you might be able to say to the girls.

You see a boy in your class writing notes to a friend. You know this is against the rules.

Tattling – It is a teachers responsibility to enforce rules in the classroom, not yours.

You are playing with a new toy, when another girl comes up and takes it away from you.

Tattling – Try telling the girl that you were playing with the toy but you would be happy to share with her or let her use it when you are done. If she doesn't listen ask an adult to *help you problem solve* rather than asking them *to problem solve for you*.

You see two older boys take a younger boys lunch money in the hallway.

Telling/ Reporting – The younger child is being bullied. He is being harmed by having nothing to eat for lunch. You might want to try and say something to the older boys if you feel comfortable. BUT if you don't, be sure and tell an adult.

A friend tells you she made 100 baskets last night at her basketball game. You're pretty sure that she is exaggerating.

Tattling – Your friend probably did not make 100 baskets, but this is not a situation that needs adult intervention. You might try talking to her about how when people exaggerate, others are less likely to trust them.

