



Educator guide: Tattling and telling lesson

Recommended for grades:

2nd grade

Time:

6 minutes

National Health Education Standards:

This activity aligns with the following National Health Education Standards:

- Standard 1: Use functional health information to support health and well-being of self and others.
- Standard 4: Use interpersonal communication skills to support health and well-being of self and others.

For more information about the National Health Education Standards, visit the SHAPE America website: shapeamerica.org.

Learning objectives:

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between bullying behaviors and non-bullying behaviors.
2. Name at least two trusted adults they can go to if they need help, and show how they would ask for help.
3. Differentiated between tattling and telling, when given video scenarios of both behaviors, and describe to the class why they are different.

Lesson description:

The Tattling and telling lesson teaches the difference between tattling and telling. Students will watch several videos and get a chance to practice deciding whether what they saw was an example of tattling or telling.



Pre and post-test questions:

The following questions assess knowledge. Correct answer choices are bolded. Use these questions before the lesson or activity to find out what your students already know about this topic. After they have completed the activity, you can have students answer these questions again and compare the results to see what they have learned.

Use these questions with your students in any way that you see fit (on paper, using a survey tool, etc.). You can also combine questions from various lessons and activities that your students participate in.

1. During recess, Jack runs by Emma and her friends playing four-square and steals their ball. Emma runs over to the teacher to let her know what Jack did. Is this tattling or telling?
 - a. **Tattling**
 - b. Telling
2. When the teacher isn't nearby, Adam and Gavin trap Clint in the bathroom and won't let him out. Vince sees this happen to Clint a few days in a row and decides to go to the school counselor to let her know what happened. Is this tattling or telling?
 - a. Tattling
 - b. **Telling**

Vocabulary:

Use the following list of vocabulary as a reference for yourself and your students as you complete the Tattling and telling activity. You may choose to use this list in any way that fits your needs.

- Tattling – reporting something unimportant to an adult to try and get someone else in trouble
- Telling – reporting something important to an adult because it is serious and someone may get hurt

Handouts

Included on the following pages are additional resources that you and your students' families may find useful.



Tattling versus telling for parents and caregivers

Tattling and telling are not the same thing. Children need to know the difference.

Tattling is when a child tells an adult about something another child did that is not going to hurt anyone. A lot of the time, it is about something that does not matter. It is done to get the other child in trouble.

Example: LaToya tells her teacher that she thinks Javon is looking at her in class.

Telling is when a child tells an adult about a serious situation where someone could get hurt.

Example: After school Joel hears Sam in the hall saying he's going to beat up his classmate. Joel finds Ms. Jones and tells her what he heard.

Talk with your child about tattling and telling.

Use these questions to get started.

1. What is the difference between tattling and telling?
2. Can you tell me about a time that you used telling to get help from an adult?
3. Can you tell me about a time that you tattled to try to get someone in trouble? Have you ever heard someone else tattle?

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Transcript

Screen 1

Narrator: Have you ever told on someone for no real reason? Maybe to get attention for yourself, or because you wanted to get someone in trouble? There's a big difference between doing that and telling an adult when something that happens is serious and someone could be getting hurt.

We need to make sure that we know the difference between tattling and telling. That way, when something serious happens, we'll know that we need to find an adult and tell them what is going on.

Tattling is going to an adult to try and get someone in trouble over something that's not very important. For example, if Anna tells the gym teacher that Jack was taking a long time at the drinking fountain, and everyone else had to wait, that would be tattling. No one was getting hurt. Anna was just trying to get Jack in trouble.

Sometimes, though, we do need to tell an adult about things that happen. Telling is talking to an adult about a serious situation where someone could get hurt. All bullying situations would be considered serious and an adult needs to be told.

Screen 2

Narrator: Take a look at this example, and decide if it's tattling or telling.

Video

Derin: Ms. Campbell ... umm, every day in the bathroom Joey and Zach splash water all around and try to get it on Devon's pants. Devon always feels bad about it, and they laugh and say he peed on himself. Devon told me he doesn't even want to use the bathroom at school anymore.

Is this tattling or telling?

Tattling- It sounds like Devon is being bullied in the bathroom every day. It is never OK to intimidate or bully someone. It's important to tell an adult any time someone is being bullied. So this boy was telling, not tattling.

Telling-You're right! This is an example of telling. Devon was at the point where he was afraid to use the bathroom at school because he was being bullied.



Screen 3

Narrator: Let's take a look at another one.

Video

Roman: Mr. Waldo, I have to go get my book from my bag.

Mr. Waldo: No, Roman, you should have done that before class started. Now go choose a book from the classroom library.

Roman: But Emma went to her locker and got a book, and she didn't even ask!

Is this tattling or telling?

Tattling-You're right! This is an example of tattling. It sounds like Roman is just trying to get Emma in trouble. This is not a serious situation.

Telling-No one is getting hurt here. It sounds like Roman is just trying to get Emma in trouble. So this would be an example of tattling, not telling.

Screen 4

Narrator: Here's another one.

Video

Austin: Wanna trade?

Roman: Sure.

Kaya: Mr. Waldo, Mr. Waldo! Austin and Roman just traded their snacks!

Is this tattling or telling?

Tattling-That's right. There may be a rule against trading snacks, but no one is being hurt here. A refresher on the rules may be in order, but this would still be considered tattling.

Telling-Remember, telling is for when someone is getting hurt, or could get hurt. This would be an example of tattling.



Screen 5

Narrator: Let's take a look at one more.

Video

Salome: Miss Williams, right before recess Anna and Jess said I can play with them, but when I went to join the game, they won't let me.

Miss Williams: Oh, I'm sorry they are treating you that way. Did this just happen today or is this more often?

Salome: No, it's almost every day.

Teacher: Ok, I'll talk to them. For now, you wanna go over there and play with your other friends?

Is this tattling or telling?

Tattling-It sounds like Salome's feelings are really being hurt by these other girls, and that they're bullying her. This would be an example of telling.

Telling-That's right! Remember, asking an adult for help is one way to handle being bullied. By telling an adult what happened, they can help you figure out what to do.

Screen 6

Narrator: Great job recognizing the difference between tattling and telling. Remember, if you ever see a bullying situation, or are in one yourself, make sure to find a trusted adult. Whether you're at school or at home, there are many adults, such as teachers, parents and grandparents who are willing to help.

Screen 7

Narrator: Great job! You have completed this activity.



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