

Aggressive Behaviour



This activity will help you to:

- Understand what we mean by aggression
- Consider some different possible causes of aggressive behaviour

Some Examples of Aggression

James is a three-year-old boy. Recently, at nursery, one of the staff took away a toy he was playing with, because he was in danger of breaking it. Shortly afterwards, James hit another child who was playing quietly in a group.

Salim is an elderly Asian man. Last week he was attacked (punched and kicked) by three white men whilst walking home from the shops. Nothing was stolen from him. The men were heard to shout racist insults during the attack.

Corporal S is a soldier in the US armed forces. During the recent war he shot and killed three Iraqi soldiers who were manning a machine gun post on the Basra road.

Above are three examples of aggression. In each case, what might explain the aggressive behaviour? What do these situations have in common? What makes them different from each other?

Discuss each example in pairs or small groups, and make notes on your ideas.