

Travis Jones is a middle school Physical Education teacher. The school district that the middle school Travis teaches at is medium in size and both the elementary and middle school are combined together within one school building. Grades K-8 are all at school together at the same time. Jared is a 7th grade boy who recently moved into the district after his mom moved jobs. Jared is very small for his age and was bullied for his size at his last school. This has caused him to become very quiet and shy around classmates and teachers.

Jared's mom had really been hoping that by changing jobs and moving schools, Jared would be able to start over and begin to gain back some of the confidence he had lost. Mr. Jones has Jared in his 5th hour Physical Education class. Since Jared has arrived, Mr. Jones has noticed that he is often left out by the other students, especially during competitive or team activities. Today during class, Mr. Jones split the students into teams to play flag football. During gameplay, Mr. Jones overheard two students, Carson and Dylan, talking to each other within hearing distance of Jared.

"It doesn't even pay to throw the ball to him" said Carson "he's the size of the 2nd graders, he probably can't catch it anyways" "Don't even bother" answered Dylan "I'll go deep just throw it to me" Mr. Jones continued to watch the students play. He did notice Carson throw the football down the field to Dylan many times and also a few other short passes to his classmates, all except for Jared who meekly jogged up and down the field with the rest of his team.

At the end of class, Mr. Jones sat down all of his students and decided to have a conversation with them about their recent behavior regarding Jared. He goes on to tell the class that it is inappropriate to single out any student during activities regardless of their size and that if it continues happening there will be consequences. All the student's eyes darted to Jared who sat with his head down in the back of the group. After, Mr. Jones excused his students from class and headed to his office to begin working on lesson plans for later that week. The next day in class, Mr. Jones notices that the boys are throwing the ball to Jared and including him more, however they seem to be purposely making bad throws or throwing the football harder than Jared is able to catch. Mr. Jones thinks to himself that he is just happy to see Jared being involved more during class and decides that he will have a discussion with him after class has ended. At the end of class, Mr. Jones asks Jared to stay behind to talk. "How did today go?" asked Mr. Jones "Do you feel like you were able to be more involved?"

"I guess so" replied Jared who was fiddling with the strings on his sweatshirt "It just feels really embarrassing knowing they're only throwing to me because they got in trouble"

"Look on the bright side kid" exclaimed Mr. Jones "Now you don't have to just jog up and down the field" Mr. Jones then excused Jared to head to his 6th hour class.

Assess:

1. How does Jared's size play a role in the behavior of his classmates during activity time?
2. Do you think that it was appropriate for Mr. Jones to address the entire class about the issue? Should the conversation have happened with Jared being present?
3. What would you have done differently if a situation such as this one had occurred during your class period?
4. How could the handling of this situation further effect the confidence issue that Jared's mom had hoped would be helped by moving schools?

