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## **No Child Left Behind Bunk**

I was recently reading a blog ( by momaroo) about what a nightmare the school system is especially when up against an impossible teacher. I moved to another state when my youngest son was 15, a state that, in my personal opinion has a really bad school system.

I work for the county in this city and I run an alternative class room for kids from K-5 who have been suspended from school due to carrying weapons, fighting, habitual problems with teachers, etc. My program is the last resort before being referred to juvenile courts.

I have found that many of the kids sent to me are referred because they chose to defend themselves on the playground when bullied. Their 'weapons' consist of anything from a pocket knife to a pencil or anything they chose to defend themselves. I have called the Principals of the schools many times asking where the bullies are who were picking on the child that got referred to me. Their answer is usually: "Well we send the kid who is caught fighting or who had a weapon." My answer? "So the kid I got sent to me didn't spell his last name correctly?" I sometimes, eventually get the bully too once I've conferenced with Principal and teacher.

Advice to any parent? If you think your child is being wronged, go to bat for them in a systematic way. Don't let the school authorities bully you, the parent. I tell parents they are the authorities and experts concerning their own kids, those parents live with those kids on a daily basis, not the teacher, not the Principal. I home schooled my son because my husband worked at home and was able to over see his school work and made sure he got it all done. My youngest is now graduating college soon with a graphic arts and communication degree, so home school didn't hold him back one bit in life.

Do teachers hold prejudices? Absolutely, they are as human as anyone else is, they have their quirks too. I used to substitute teach and it amazed me that while on the playground, some of those teachers huddled at one end chatting instead of watching kids. No wonder bullies abound there. So the bully on the playground excuses from them in my program doesn't wash, been there, seen that,

There are some really good teachers out there, unfortunately they are becoming as scarce as hen's teeth.