



Cyber Safety in Schools

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What is Cyber Bullying?

- *Cyber bullying, like traditional bullying, involves an imbalance of power, aggression, and a negative action that is often repeated.*
- *Aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions*
- *Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.*



Why Cyber Bullying is Prevalent in Schools?

- **Anonymity**: *As bad as the "bully" on the playground may be, he or she can be readily identified and potentially avoided.*
- **Accessibility**: *Most children who use traditional ways of bullying terrorize their victim at school, on the bus, or walking to or from school*
- **Punitive Fears**: *Victims of cyber bullying often do not report it because of: (1) fear of retribution from their tormentors, and (2) fear that their computer or phone privileges will be taken away.*

Why Cyber Bullying is Prevalent in Schools?

- **Bystanders:** *Most traditional bullying episodes occur in the presence of other people who assume the role of bystanders or witnesses.*
- **Disinhibition:** *The anonymity afforded by the Internet can lead children to engage in behaviors that they might not do face-to-face. Ironically, it is their very anonymity that allows some individuals to bully at all.*



Common Forms of Cyber Bullying

- *Sending of abusive texts or emails*
- *Taking and/or sharing unflattering or private images, including inappropriate images*
- *Posting unkind messages or inappropriate images on social networking sites*
- *Excluding individuals from online chats or other communication*
- *Assuming the identity of someone online and representing them in a negative manner or manner that may damage their relationship with others*



Identifying Signs of Cyber Bullying

- Change in personality
- Appears sad, moody, depressed or anxious
- Complains frequently of headaches, stomachaches, or other physical problems
- Withdraws from or shows a lack of interest in school activities.....Avoids School!
- Experiences a drop in grades or decline in academic performance
- Increased social exclusion and peer rejection

Recognize Characteristics of Students who Bully

- Positive attitude toward violence and the use of violent means
- Strong need to dominate and subdue other students and get their own way
- Involvement in other antisocial or rule-breaking activities....vandalism, delinquency, substance abuse, etc.....
- Defiance and aggression toward adults, including teachers and parents
- Lack of empathy toward students who are bullied
- More likely to report owning a gun for risky reasons, such as to gain respect or to frighten others



Cyber Bullying Statistics

- *42% of kids have been bullied while online. 1 in 4 have had it happen more than once.*
- *35% of kids have been threatened online. Nearly 1 in 5 have had it happen more than once.*
- *21% of kids have received mean or threatening e-mail or other messages.*
- *58% have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online. More than 4 out of 10 say it has happen more than once.*
- *Approx. 160,000 students miss school each day due to a form of Bullying*

Facebook

- Created 2004-Harvard U and other colleges
- Launched High School version in 2005
- 2006-Facebook opened to everyone 13 yrs old and older
- Nov.2010, became 3rd largest US web company
- As of May 2011, 750 million users worldwide
- 113 Million users in US-2010
- 39% of users are 13-25 years old
- 7.5 million users are under 13 years old!
- Facebook removes approx. 20,000 profiles everyday for various infractions

facebook



Top Acronyms Parents should know

- POS=parents over shoulder
- PIR=Parents in room
- P911=Parents alert
- PAW=Parents are watching
- PAL=Parents are listening
- ASL=age/sex/location
- ADR=Address
- IWSN=I want sex now
- TD2M=Talk dirty to me
- SORG=Straight or gay
- LMIRL=Lets meet in real life
- WYCM=Will you call me
- GYPO=Get your pants off
- NALOPKT=Not a lot of people know this
- KPC=Keeping parents clueless

Suggestions for Parents

- Monitor your child's computer use
- Computer in open area
- Strongly encourage child not to respond to cyberbullying
- Try to identify the person doing the cyber bullying
- Attempt to block email/cell phone number of person
- Contact your school if issues occur during school
- Do not erase messages/pictures
- **BE PROACTIVE / AWARE**



Preventative Measures

- Discuss with your child openly what is appropriate
- Don't give out private information
- Don't share buddy lists
- Delete messages from people you don't know
- When something doesn't sound right, leave chat room
- Use privacy settings on social media sites
- Explain potential problems of posting pictures online
- Teach how to identify potential threats
- **COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD!**

Resources on the Web

- Bullycide.org
- Stopcyberbullying.org
- [National Crime Prevention Council \(NCPC.org\)](http://National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC.org))
- Stopbullying.gov
- Cyberbullying.us
- Netsmartz.org
- [Ventura USD website – Family Resources / Technology Resources](#)



