

CYBERWORLD

What Can I Do About Cyberbullying?

For Parents

Prevention

The following suggestions may help in your effort to prevent your child from becoming involved in Cyberbullying.

1. Engage your child in a conversation about how to behave online (Netiquette). One way to do this is to work with your child to complete a Word Scramble and Word Find about Cyberbullying.
2. Look at your child's online profile and buddy list.
3. Talk to your child about the dangers of posting too much information.
4. Talk to your child about respecting others.
5. Explain that whatever is posted online stays online forever.
6. Explain to your child that he or she is not anonymous on the Internet.
7. Don't threaten to take away the computer. This can prevent children from telling you that they have been a victim of Cyberbullying.
8. Complete a Respect Contract with your child.

What to do if your child has been the victim of Cyberbullying

If your child has been the victim of Cyberbullying, you may take the following steps to address the problem.

1. Print out all instances of Cyberbullying.
2. Preserve electronic evidence. If your child receives a mean or threatening message, do not delete the message. You should take a screen shot of the message or store the message in a folder because it may contain important electronic information that can help law enforcement trace the source.
3. Google your child. You may find other instances of your child being victimized online!

4. Report improper content and usage to the perpetrator's Web site or Internet Service Provider. Most Web sites and Internet service providers have a service agreement that prohibits members from using their service to harass or threaten others. Most Web sites and Internet Service Providers also supply a link to report this type of abuse.
5. Ignore the sender. You do not have to respond. In fact, responding can escalate the situation.
6. Block the sender. If ignoring the person does not improve the situation, you can call your phone company and ask them to block the number so that the person can no longer call your phone. You can also remove the person from your child's buddy list.
7. Call 911 if your child is in immediate danger!

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