

Cyberbullying

Definition: Using electronic communication tools to antagonize and intimidate others

Signs to watch for...

Signs of cyberbullying victims are often similar to signs of other forms of bullying, in addition to the following:

A child may:

- spend long hours on the computer
- close programs on their computer when you enter room
- be secretive about Internet activities
- exhibit behavioral changes such as sudden disinterest in computer or cell phone
- always be doing homework on the Internet, but always in chat groups and getting behind with school work
- be secretive about who they are talking to
- may have unexplained pictures on computer

Prevention and Control for Parents

- Have clear household rules guiding Internet use (i.e. not to be used unless parent is present to supervise)
- Keep the computer in a supervised area (i.e. not in the child's bedroom)
- Know what kids are doing on-line through discussion or checking Internet history
- Talk to kids about using good manners when communicating electronically and cyberbullying
- Encourage kids to come to you if they suspect they are being cyberbullied
- Report incidents of bullying to Internet Service Providers (ISP), school officials (if applicable), or police if harassment persists
- Investigate purchasing an Internet Filtering program

Checking Up - (This works best when you are setup as the Administrator for the computer)

- MSN is set up to automatically save chat logs in a folder on your computer. You can check your hard drive for a folder called "My chat logs". The default location is usually under: C:\My Documents\.
- Browsers usually keep 'history' files of recently visited sites. Internet Explorer has a History button on the top toolbar. Double click on any listing in the history to view the site.
- Browsers also make temporary copies of Web pages, known as cache files, and store them on your computer. Internet Explorer allows users to click on either Tools or View. Next, select Internet Options and click on General and then Settings. Finally, click on View Files to see a list of all the cached Web pages on your computer.
- There are also many kinds of software that will let you monitor various online activities. To find out more you can go to the GetNetWise site at: <http://kids.getnetwise.org/tools/> Scroll down to the bottom of the page to "Find Tools for Your Family" and search under "monitors".

Helpful Websites

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca> - click on the CyberSafety link

www.media-awareness.ca

www.bewebaware.ca

www.cyberbullying.ca

www.cybersmartcurriculum.org