

Quiz Answers

1. True According to the Antidefamation League, more than one third of U.S. students have been victims of cyberbullying.
2. False Texting is the number one method employed by cyberbullies.
3. True Most cyberbullying takes place before or after school.
4. False Girls are more likely to cyberbully than boys.
5. False Bullies tend to be male and their aggression is physical and directly verbal. Cyberbullying has no direct physical contact.
6. True Many cyberbullies victimize children from their social group.
7. False Children do not want to tell anyone; fear of having internet privileges or cell phone use taken away prevents them from telling parents.
8. True According to research the number increases each year.

Helpful Resources

- www.stopcyberbullying.org - ways to prevent cyberbullying
- www.wiredsafety.org - internet safety information for teens and adults as well as a downloadable translator for cyber-lingo and acronyms used by teens
- www.cyberbullying.us - the Cyberbully Research Center website
- www.ncpc.org - cyberbullying and internet safety information for parents
- www.munster.org/police - Munster Police Department

Presented By:
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Cyber-Bullying



Is Your Child Safe?

A Guide for Parents

What is Cyber Bullying?

- Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones and other electronic devices
- Posting obscene and slanderous messages on social networking websites (i.e., Facebook, MySpace, etc.) and blogs
- Harassing e-mails or instant messages
- Inappropriate text messages, pictures, and video
- Information, whether true or false, sent to others with the intent to cause harm

A cyberbully can attack anyone, anywhere. Although middle school students seem especially prone to this type of behavior, the cyberbully can be anyone. The new technology creates an invisibility that gives the cyberbully a sense that there will be no consequences to the behavior. Because technology takes away the face-to-face exchange between a bully and the victim, the cyberbully lacks the feedback that their actions have gone to far or that their harmful words are even inappropriate.

With students' easy access to technology there is virtually no escape.

Quiz

1. T F Half of U.S. teens have been effected by cyberbullying.
2. T F Most cyberbullying involves sending rumors as a nasty email.
3. T F Most cyberbullying occurs outside of school.
4. T F Boys are more likely to cyberbully than girls.
5. T F There are many differences between a bully and a cyberbully.
6. T F Cyberbullying appears to frequently be based on social climbing interactions.
7. T F Children are more likely to tell a parent than a teacher that they are being cyberbullied.
8. T F Cyberbullying is increasing in both frequency and scope.

Answers to the quiz on the back.

What you can do

As a parent you must be proactive. Encourage an open dialog regarding internet safety and responsible use of the technology. They should also know that there can be legal consequences to engaging in destructive behaviors while using technology—they are not anonymous! Set guidelines and then monitor online activities and cell phone use.

Tell your child:

- NOT to post or send information others can use against you.
- NOT to give out passwords or make your security questions too easy.
- NOT to exchange pictures, numbers or e-mail addresses with people you meet on the internet
- NOT to engage in cyberbullying
- TO realize online conversations are not private
- TO tell you if they are being harassed online

Restrict the people who can send your child communications. Google your child to see if there is any information about them already online. You can also set up an "alert" to know when something about your child is posted online.