# Cyber Safety Guide For Parents and Educators

Strategies for preventing and responding to cyberbullying and risky online behaviors in children and adolescents.

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# Webinar Overview

- 1. Cyberbullying and Other Online Risks
- 2. Cyber Safety Guide: Prevention and Response
- Resources

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# Overview of Cyber Risks

Cyber risks/acts

- Bullying
- Harassment
- Intimidation
- Sexting
- Privacy invasion
- Theft
- Extortion
- Masking identity

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# What is Cyberbullying?

- 1. Intentional aggressive behavior unwanted
  - (Harass, mistreat, make fun, taunt, mock, etc.,
- 2. Imbalance of power Real or perceived
- 3. Behavior is repeated
  - (NJ School HIB Law states that it can be a single incident or series of incidents)
- 4. By one/or more person(s) against another
- 5. Behaviors occur in a cyber setting:
- Online, cell phones, other electronic devices

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#### Types of Cyberbullying

How they play out in cyber world

- Verbal- Saying or writing mean things
  - Teasing, Name Calling, Inappropriate sexual comments, Taunting, Threatening to cause harm
- Social (Relational)- Hurting someone's reputation or relationships
  - Leaving someone out, telling others not to be friends with a person, spreading rumors, embarrassment
- Physical Bullying Hurting a person's virtual property
  - Hacking cyber accounts, destroying online property/creations
- Each type may occur:
  - <u>Overtly</u> (publicly) and/ or <u>Covertly</u> (hidden)
    - Often covert cyberbullying is "blasted" to overt quickly

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### Cyberbullying behaviors

non-exhaustive list

- Attack ethnicity, race, gender, religion, perceived characteristics
- Prank calls, texts, chats
- Teasing, sarcasm, humor at the expense of another
  - Slippery slope to bullying, not intent of person teasing that matters, it is how it is perceived by the target.
- Use of known obscene gestures or coded ones.
- Taunts
- Intentional acts of annoyance when told to stop
- Stalking
- Uninvited sexual comments and sexual harassmen
- Stealing, "borrowing" a person's virtual property
- Slander, ostracizing, embarrassing


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# **Cyberbullying Components**

- The Bully
- Need to dominate, enjoy causing suffering, learned behavior
- Struggle with empathy, impulsivity, aggression, anger, following rules
- Often rewarded for the behavior (social, material gains, attention)
- $\bullet\,$  Males: More overt verbal, + self image, popular, bully boys & girls equally
- Females: More covert social-relational (in groups), bully girls more
- Bully behavior can be stable and continue throughout the life spa
- Victim: Anyone at any time can be bullied! But more likely if:
  - New, different from norm group: smaller, less fit, skin color, anxious, sh
  - Males who seem effeminate, Females who seem masculing
  - Females: Often target of rumors, bullied by group, verbal/socia
  - Males: Bullied mostly by boys, Verbal overt most common
  - Socially rejected kids: greater chance for rejection in different locations

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## Cyberbullying Components

- Bystanders: Many stay passive and guiet
- Many do not get involved: Including Adults Fear consequences
- · Often have little training in what to do
- Can be traumatic for them as well (guilt)
- Can rationalize their inaction: Blame the victim, don't be a snitch!, take care of yourself, don't like the victim
- The Setting:
  - Cyber modality: Text, facebook, twitter, message boards, etc
  - Actual physical setting actors are in: Home, school, time of day
  - Rules and Polices of Cyber setting and physical settin
  - Culture, climate and acceptance of behavior (Model positive Bx)
    - Climate one of the most important factors!
  - Response of those in charge of the actors
    - Bullies need adults to be bystanders (Schneider, 2011)

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# Other risky (related) cyber behaviors

- Sexting
- Sending or receiving sexually-explicit or sexuallysuggestive images or video via a cell phone (Cyberbullying Research Center)
- Often a "selfie" photo sent to a boy/girlfriend
- High risk of pic being distributed, becoming very common
- Legal issues, NJ "Sexting Law" 1st time offenders complete ed program
- cyberbullying.us has state by state break down of laws
- Privacy Invasion and theft
- Masking identity
  - Making fake accounts, apps to mask/change phone numbers, anonymity of internet


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# Why Do These Behaviors Occur?

- Its easy...to do, to hide, to cause damage
- Behavioral factors (reinforcement-rewards, modeling)
- Personality, depression, aggression, trauma
- Socially accepted behaviors, Peer group norms, Media
- Lack of alternative behavioral repertoire
- Norms/Rules of setting (cyber, school, school, athletics)
- Social climate and Supervision

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# Where cyber risks are...

- Social Networks : Facebook, instagram, twitter, tumblr
- Smart phones: iPhone, Android, Windows other...
- Chatting: Video, snapchat, chat roulette, trolling, message boards
- Computers, streaming devices, Virtual worlds, gaming
- Data:
- 8-18 year olds spend 9 or more hours a day accessing digital entertainmen
- Teens (12-17) send 1800 texts per month
- 80% of teens use online social networking, 78% of teens have cell phones
- 94% of HS students using cell phone during class: facebook, youtube, pics
- From 6%-50% of students report being cyber bullied
- ~17% of students admit to being cyber bullies
- 4-20% of students report sending sexually suggestive content
- 13-31% of students report receiving sexually suggestive content

Sources: Cyberbullying.us 2013, Pew, 2011, Pew 2013 and Kaiser (2010)

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## **Impacts**

- It affects everyone: the victims, the witnesses, children and adults, and the bullies.
- Intense anxiety
- Loss of interest in academic achievement
- School avoidance
- Increased interest in acts of violence
- Depression: Sense of helplessness, withdrawal, low sense of self efficacy, isolation
- Self-injury (cutting, burning, etc.), Substance Abuse
- Severe: Suicide Homicide
- Effects can be long-term impacting into adulthood

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#### In the news...

- Everyday there is new story
- March 2013
- Ridgewood High School: Snapchat sexting
- October 2013
  - Florida girls ages 12 and 14 charged with felony in cyberbullying suicide case
  - Maryland schools and Facebook partnering
    - Easier for schools to get posts taken down

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

- ACT (Prevention)
- Active Management of cyber activities
- <u>Climate</u> that provides and promotes safety, caring and respect
- <u>Teaching and communication</u> of/between parents, schools, students
- NOW (Response Stop Bullying Now)
  - NO cyberbullying: Stop behaviors immediately
  - Objective and organized response and investigation by adults
  - Work to support students involved
- ! (Targeted Response) For difficult cases, individual plan

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Active Management of cyber activities

- 1. Establish home and school <u>culture</u> of safe cyber use early
  - Supervision and moderation of cyber use from an early age, teaches that it is serious and has limits - Ongoing
    - Passwords: Secure, private, how to make it secure
    - Account access: Don't give out passwords, leave logged in
    - Don't talk to or open messages from people you do not know
    - Don't give out personal information in any form
  - Think of driving a car: Tech is powerful tool to be used safel
  - Privilege not a right to have access (they need to earn it)
  - Discuss risks early and review on regular basis.
    - Managing online reputation, Permanent nature of internet
    - Check "Digital Footprint" do a search for your name
  - Adults need to model pro-social behaviors/responsible use

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW! Active Management of cyber activities

- 2. Set Limits and rules for cyber use
  - Review and establish rules for use and consequences for

  - Tech controls: Know and set parental and privacy controls for all devices/software/apps/accounts.
- 3. Allow use if they earned it: Grant cyber "Driver's License"
- 4. Oversee and check use regularly: Get your own account
- 5. Assess cyber-bullying: Check-ins, Red Flags-anxiety, isolation, avoidance

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Active Management of cyber activities

- 6. Create a "Cyber Inventory" for your child
  - Hardware: phones, computers, gaming systems
  - Software: programs/apps/video games

  - Covert or unexpected access points:
    - How can child get online even if you limit it at home: get a secret device, use friends hardware, library, wifi available in place parents are not aware of

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Active Management of cyber activities

More on Parental Controls

- - Offer plans for blocking calls, text, websites, app downloads, location, usage controls, limit use during time of day, see who they talk/text with (wifi access might not be blocked)
- Windows 7 & 8, Mac OSX: limit use, passwords, block access, limit time
- Android restricted profiles
- <u>iOS</u> Restrictions (iOS7 more than iOS6, can block websites)
- Third party apps: Look around, do your research
  - Net Nanny, Norton, McAfee are some you can check out

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### Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Climate of safety, caring and respect

- Model respectful behavior: All parents, school personnel, students
- - Respect, Caring, Honesty and ResponsibilityConduct, citizenship, bullying and treatment of others
- Promote Policies and Procedures for responding to cyberbullying:
  - If a student/staff/parent member finds out about it what do they
  - Set expectations, procedures, and encourage action
- Promote message in school

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### Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Climate of safety, caring and respect

- Recent bullying study of 48,000 students in New Jersey (Elias Rutgers) Key findings:
  - Bullying linked to school climate
  - Most strongly related to the RESPECT students feel in the
    - When there is a respectful environment bullying less likely to exist
  - Bullying occurs less and students feel they have been effectively taught to cope with it when:

    - They perceive teachers as being caring and supportive to students and to one-another
    - They feel they are involved in shaping their school environment in positive ways

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

<u>Teaching and communicating</u> between parents, students, schools

- Parents and schools need to be on the same page
- School can provide parents with cyber safety guides and regular updates which:
- PTA meetings, or create parent/school cyber committee
- Law enforcement and legal experts talking with community
- Peer mentoring: Students helping students (school club)

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Teaching and communicating between parents, students, schools

- Teach kids essential social skills and reward for using them
  - Ongoing Social Emotional Learning/ Character ED programing
  - Social skills
  - Empathy, listening to others, Social Problem Solving, Self Regulation, Conflict Resolution
  - Electronic Convo Skills TTYL
    - (\*See my May 2013 NJCTS webinar on "iSocial Skills")
  - Daily Check-ins
- Reinforce positive behavior: Praise, recognition
- Empower students with inclusive positive activities
  - Have them work towards a common goal, school pride
  - Anti-bullying clubs, promoting message-posters

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## Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

<u>Teaching and communicating</u> between parents, students, schools

- Simple actions for kids and teens if Cyberbullied
  - Tell parents, school staff
  - Keep evidence, but don't share it
  - Block and ignore bully
  - · Don't retaliate or get sucked into it
  - Could notify site moderators, Cell/Internet providers
  - Contact law enforcement (with parents)



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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

NO cyberbullying: Stop behaviors immediately

- Stop cyber-bullying on the spot
  - Respond quickly, consistently, immediately, early, Be Proactive!
  - STAY CALM- MODEL RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR
    - GET EVERYONE CALM, DO NOT ARUGE OR MAKE SITUATION MORE TENSE!!!!!!!! (Initial Goal is to stabilize situation, ensure safety)
    - Reassure target and bystanders
  - Use firm calm voice, send message that it is not acceptable
  - Ensure safety and assess situation (threats, injury)
  - Get assistance and notify parents and school promptly

NOW steps adapted from steps provided by stopbullying.gov

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW! NO cyber-bullying: Stop behaviors immediately

When first responding avoid common mistakes

- Overreacting, accusing before you know what is going on
- Ignoring the bullying, Don't think kids work it out themselves
- out the facts later, first job is to stabilize the situation
- Don't force kids to say publicly what they saw
- Don't question the children involved in front of the other kids
- on the spot
- Talk to the kids separately not together

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Objective and organized response/investigation by adults

- - Stabilize situation firstKeep the involved children separate

  - Take a look at the evidence (texts etc.) cyber bullied kids should keep this
    Don't call it bullying while still trying to sort it out
- Determine if it is bullying
   History between kids, doesn't matter who started it
- Is child worried about it happening again

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# Cyber Safe

- •Target-Victim:
  - Listen and focus
  - Assure that bully

  - Know that they might have trouble talking about it
  - Give advice about what to do if they feel threatened again
  - Identify and work on any lagging skills (social-cognitive)

  - Work on helping to include and rejoin in class activities and develop positive peer relationships (positive climate)

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Work to support students involved

- Clarify that bully knows what the specific problem is
- Work with bully to understand reasons they bullied
- - Consequences should be used as teachable moment, help build

- Bullying is not a conflict between people of equal power who share blame
- Facing those who bullied may further upset kids who have been
- If not bullying conflict resolution could be helpful

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## Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW!

Work to support students involved

- •The Bystanders
  - Listen to them, see if they are ok
  - Reinforce how bullying is unacceptable

  - Coach them on steps they can take if they witness it again

    - Smith needs to see you right now!
       Tell an adult. Remind students that this is not tattling it's doing the right thing

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- Tattling is getting someone in trouble
- Telling is getting someone out of trouble

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# Cyber Safety Guide: ACT-NOW! (Targeted Response) - For difficult cases, individual plan

- Goals: increase positive behavior, decrease bullying behavior
- Can include structured daily schedules, enhanced supervision, other accommodations

- Legal involvement, attorney

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# **Comments Questions?**

- - Cyberbullying.us (has a lot of information)
  - http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide

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#### Resources Cont....

- Media! Tech! Parenting! Timely Topics on Teaching and Parenting Digital Children by Marti Weston: http://mediatechparenting.net/professional-development/
- COPPA Children's Online Privacy Protection Act: <a href="http://www.coppa.org">http://www.coppa.org</a>

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# Resources

- Books:
   Cybersafe by O'Keeffe
   Generation Text: Raising Well-Adjusted Kids in an Age of Instant Everything by Dr. Michael Osit
   Livin' Out Loud: Today's Girls and Technology by Bowen et al.
- iDisorder: Understanding our Obsession with Technology and Overcoming Its Hold on Us by Larry D. Rosen, Ph.D. with Nancy A. Cheever, Ph.D. &L. Mark Carrier, Ph.D.
   Rewired: Understanding the iGeneration and the Way They Learn by Larry D. Rosen, Ph.D.
   Social Decision Making and Problem Solving by Maurice Elias & Linda Brune Butter

- Born Digital: Understanding the First Generation of Digital Natives by John Palfrey & Urs Gasser