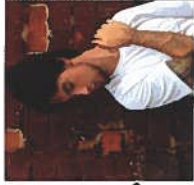
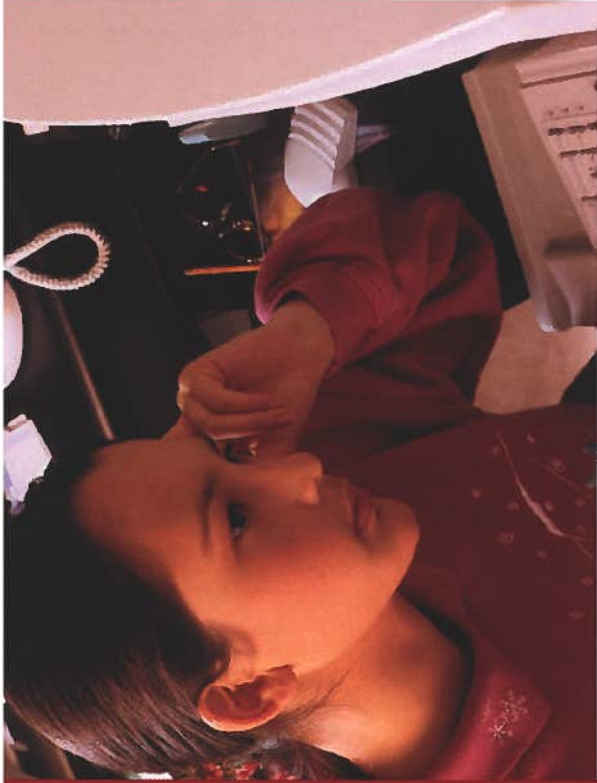


Cyber-Bullying: Don't be an accomplice!



Cyber-Bullying can be as simple as continually sending e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact from the sender, but it may also include threats, sexual remarks, hate speech, or humiliation. The methods used are limited only by the Cyber-Bully's imagination and access to technology. Also, the person who is the Cyber-Bully one moment may become the victim. The kids often change roles, going from victim to bully and back again.

Children have killed each other and committed suicide after having been involved in a Cyber-Bullying incident. One of the most damaging effects of Cyber-Bullying is that victims begin to avoid friends and activities.

How It Works:

There are two kinds of Cyber-Bullying, Direct Attacks and Cyber-Bullying By Proxy:

Direct Attacks:

1. **Instant Messaging/Text Messaging Harassment:** Cyber-Bullies may send hateful or threatening messages.
2. **Web Sites:** Cyber-Bullies sometimes create Web sites specifically designed to insult another kid or group of people.

3. **Sending threatening pictures, porn, and instant messaging** through E-mail and cell phones.
4. **Stealing Passwords:** A Cyber-Bully may steal the victim's passwords. They may also change the victim's profile to include sexual, racist, and inappropriate things that may attract unwanted attention.

5. Sending Malicious Code:

Many Cyber-Bullies will send viruses, spyware and hacking programs to their victims. Viruses can destroy the victim's computer and spyware will allow them to spy on their victim. Trojan Horse programs allow the Cyber-Bully to control their victim's computer remotely.

6.

Impersonation:

Posing as the victim, the Cyber-Bully may post a provocative message in a chatroom, inviting an attack against the victim, often giving the name, address and telephone number of the victim. They often also send a message to someone, saying hateful or threatening things while masquerading as the victim.

7.

Blogs: Cyber-Bullies sometimes use blogs to damage other kids' reputations or invade their privacy. They may even set up a blog or profile page pretending to be their victim.

8.

Internet Polling: Who's Hot? Who's Not? Who is the biggest slut? These types of questions run rampant on the Internet polls, all created by teens.

9.

Interactive Gaming:

These gaming devices allow kids to communicate by chat and live Internet phone with anyone they game with online. Kids verbally abuse the other kids, using threats and lewd language. Sometimes they take it further, by locking them out of games, passing false rumors about them or hacking into their accounts.

Cyber-Bullying By Proxy:

Cyber-Bullying By Proxy is when a Cyber-Bully gets someone else to do their dirty work. This is the most dangerous kind of Cyber-Bullying since it often involves adults who do not know they are dealing with a kid.

"Warning" or "Notify Wars" are examples of Cyber-Bullying By proxy. The bully will click on the warning or notify buttons on their instant messaging,

e-mail or chat screens to alert the service provider that the victim has violated the provider's rules. If the victim receives enough warnings or notifications, they can lose their account.

Often, the Cyber-Bully can make it look like the victim is doing something wrong. When the parents are notified, the parents will punish the victim.

The most typical way a Cyber-Bullying By Proxy attack occurs is by gaining control of the victim's accounts and sending mean, rude and hateful messages to everyone on their buddy list. They may also change the victim's password so they can't get into their own account. The victim's friends get angry with the victim, thinking they had sent the messages without knowing they have been used by the Cyber-Bully. But it's not always this minor. Sometimes the Cyber-Bully tries to get more people involved.