



BULLYING: A BIG PROBLEM WITH BIG CONSEQUENCES

Talking with Kids About Cyberbullying: An In-Class Role Play Guide

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DIRECTIONS

The following stories depict teens' experiences with bullying and provide three alternative parental responses. Choose one scenario for participants to enact in a role play.

The facilitator should set up the activity per instructions in the Facilitator's Guide — leading the entire class in a discussion or forming small groups as needed. Key questions for discussion about *each* parental response include:

- Will the teen depicted be likely to tell his/her parents the next time cyberbullying is encountered?
- How do you think the parental response will affect future parent-teen communications?



SCENARIO #1: YOUTUBE VIDEO

Martin came home from school one day and went online as usual. He had posted a new video on YouTube the night before about the "world" he had created in Minecraft — one of his favorite online games — and he wanted to see if he received any comments. After logging on to YouTube, he was embarrassed to see that the comments were negative, with extremely insulting language.

Parental Response A

Martin's mom walks into the room. She doesn't notice that Martin's head is bowed and his shoulders are slumped. She does notice that there are dirty dishes on the desk and scolds Martin for eating at the computer desk. He gets up and walks out of the room.

Parental Response B

Martin's mom walks into the room. She notices that Martin's head is bowed and his shoulders are slumped. "What's wrong?" she asks. He replies, "Nothing." His mom prods him gently again, and he explains the situation, showing her the comments on YouTube. His mom reacts by telling him he is not allowed to post further Minecraft videos.



Parental Response C

Martin's mom walks into the room. She notices that Martin's head is bowed and his shoulders are slumped. "What's wrong?" she asks. He replies, "Nothing." His mom prods him gently again, and he explains the situation, showing her the comments on YouTube. His mom shows him how to make a copy of the comments and saves them for future evidence, if necessary. Then together, they look at the comments and try to determine whether they know any of the people who made them — so they can identify them to authorities, if necessary. They decide to make Martin's Minecraft channel private.

SCENARIO #2: FACEBOOK COMMENT

Delia is 13 and had begged her parents for a Facebook account for two years. Finally, her parents allowed her to create an account, provided she "friended" them. One day her dad walks by as Delia is on her laptop. He doesn't recognize the Facebook account she has up, and she appears to be commenting on an inappropriate, embarrassing picture of a classmate.

Parental Response A

Delia's father walks over and closes the laptop. She jumps up and yells, "What are you doing?!" He yells back and proceeds to ground her from using the computer for a month.

Parental Response B

Delia's father sits down and asks her what she's doing on Facebook, but Delia moves to close the laptop. He lets it go and later checks her Facebook page, which doesn't seem to contain any insulting comments about her classmate's picture.

Parental Response C

Delia's father sits down and asks her what she's doing on Facebook. Delia moves to close the laptop, but her father reminds her about the rules they have for Facebook. They look at the page together, including Delia's unfinished comment about her classmate's photo. Delia insists she is not doing anything wrong, but her father asks her to think about how she would feel if someone posted an embarrassing picture of her on Facebook — and others posted mean comments about it. He also reminds her of school and community penalties for cyberbullying.