



Collaboration for Early Childhood

Strong Start, Bright Future

May
2014

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A PHYSICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING

By Rebecca Barbato

At least once a week in my practice, a family or child tells me that they are being bullied at school. In most cases, the families feel like the school doesn't do enough. Most schools have no tolerance for bullying. They have meetings and rallies for the kids about bullying, but somehow, it still exists. And it seems like most people are at a loss for how to best handle it.

I also hear a lot about cyberbullying from my patients and have a hard time steering them through it. I find it incredibly difficult to keep up on all the social media types being offered these days. I am (mostly) thankful that my children and my patients have kept me (somewhat) up to date. As a pediatrician, I normally find myself well prepared for most of parenthood; I watch my patients and their families go through struggles with kids of all ages and it helps me know what to expect in my own house as my children age. But I do not feel well prepared for the social media issues. My instinct with my children is to NOT allow them to have any of it, but I realize that that is not a very realistic approach. Truthfully, kids can figure out most of this stuff on their own, unbeknownst to their parents. As a pediatrician, it is hard for me to steer families through many of these issues, as they are constantly developing; it used to be Facebook and now it's Snapchat. I'm also concerned about the consequences that these have on children's social interactions and how much control we, as parents and doctors, have over it.

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To educate us about these issues, Carolyn Strong will present Cyberbullying at our Physicians Network Breakfast on Tuesday, May 20th, at 7:15 am at Marion Street Cheese Market (100 S. Marion St., Oak Park). Carolyn is a motivational educator with an anti-bullying message of hope for children, families and schools. An educator with more than 10 years of experience working with inner-city youth, she is currently dean of students in a high school serving more than 2,100 young people. In this role as disciplinarian, she witnesses and confronts bullying daily and creates and implements prevention programs in conjunction with traditional discipline.

Carolyn holds multiple Master's degrees in both Curriculum and Educational Leadership, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Curriculum and Social Inquiry. Carolyn's research focuses on bullying and the black aesthetic, cyberbullying, girl bullying and minority representation in gifted education. She is the founder of BulliesStink.com and has conducted seminars at schools throughout the country. She recently authored the book *Black Girl Blues: Small Group Sessions, Activities and Discussions to Combat Intra-Racial Bullying*.

To attend the breakfast presentation, please RSVP to Karen Baldwin at 708-613-6122 or kbaldwin@collab4kids.org.

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING COORDINATOR AT YOUR SERVICE

Shannon Ellison, the Collaboration's new Developmental Screening Coordinator, is now at your service. Some of you may have already met Shannon, as she has started to make her rounds, visiting your offices.

Shannon is available to support you and your staff's efforts to implement effective and efficient developmental screenings in Oak Park and River Forest. She will be able to support you with methods for completing screenings utilizing the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 and Ages and Stages Questionnaire-SE. She will also work with you to establish effective and efficient referral and follow-up procedures for the children needing referrals, so that you have the information you need to provide a high-quality medical home for your patients.

Shannon joined the Collaboration in January 2014. She brings 21 years of experience working with children and families. She has held the positions of family service worker, Early Head Start infant and Head Start 3-5 year-old teacher, preschool site director, infant-toddler specialist (working with homeless families and children), Illinois and Indiana credentialed early intervention developmental therapist and Indiana early intervention developmental therapist parent advisor (working with families with children diagnosed as deaf or hard-of-hearing). She holds a Masters in Early Childhood Leadership and Advocacy from National-Louis University.

Please contact Shannon if there is every anything you need: sellison@collab4kids.org or 708-613-6122.

CYBERBULLYING RESOURCES

By Rachel Wood

1. Stopbullying.gov -

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/index.html/>
Get tips, facts, toolkits, training materials and more by entering a topic related to bullying in the keyword search below. This inventory includes federal and nonfederal training materials, evidence-based program directories, articles and other resources that you may find helpful in addressing the problem of bullying.

2. Cyberbullying Research Center -

<http://www.cyberbullying.us/resources.php>
Downloadable and distributable materials for teens, educators and parents. Also has a list of reference materials.

3. Cyberbullying Research Center -

<http://cyberbullying.us/>
Provides cyberbullying facts, stories, presentations, statistics, laws, articles, blogs, fact sheets, downloads, activities, events, resources and research.

4. Cyberbullying Overview -

<http://www.digizen.org/resources/cyberbullying/overview/>
Childnet has produced this guidance for the DCSF on cyberbullying. This document builds on the 2007 Safe to Learn Cyberbullying guidance, and provides advice for employers of school staff, local authorities and governing bodies. It also offers advice for school staff about keeping themselves and their personal information safe. It was written in consultation with the DCSF Cyberbullying Taskforce, and with support of the leading school employee unions and professional associations.

5. Cyberbullying -

<http://www.ncpc.org/topics/cyberbullying>
National Crime Prevention Council information and resources to curb the growing problem of cyberbullying.

6. TeachersFirst's Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention Resources -

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/spectopics/bullyingandcyberbullyingprevention.cfm>
A collection of reviewed resources from TeachersFirst, selected to help teachers, parents and students manage the tough issues of bullying and cyberbullying.

7. Cyberbullying Resource Center -

<http://www.connectsafely.org/cyberbullying/>
View or print ConnectSafely's free guide to dealing with cyberbullying.

8. Illinois Attorney General – Stop Cyberbullying -

<http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/cyberbullying/>
Stop Cyberbullying Website provides a variety of resources for kids, teenagers, parents and educators seeking information and advice about cyberbullying.

9. Bullying and Cyberbullying Resources -

<http://www.safekids.com/bullying-cyberbullying-resources/>
A continually updated list of resources on the topic of cyberbullying.

10. CyberBullying Help -

<http://www.cyberbullyhelp.com/resources/useful-links/>
A variety of materials for educators and parents to address the topic of cyberbullying.

Inside:

Parents as Teacher Model described as Parenthesis Family Center in Oak Park provides new services, thanks to funding from the Collaboration due to a jurisdictional Intergovernmental Agreement between the Collaboration, the Oak Park River Forest High School District 200, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and the Village of Oak Park.

Our mission is to make sure that all children (birth to age 5) in our local community arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy, and eager to learn.

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