

Understanding the consequences of your response to bullying

Lesson 8, Student Worksheet 2, part 2

If bystanders sit by and watch people being cyberbullied, the bully and others in your school may think this behavior is being condoned and supported. However, if students stand up for a target this will help to create a climate where bullying behavior is unacceptable.

Research has shown that bystanders standing up for a target can be one of the most effective means of stopping bullying. Support from bystanders gives the target confidence and shows the bully that what he or she is doing is not cool. It isn't easy to stand up to a bully, especially if that person is popular, violent, or powerful in the school dynamic. In that case, it is probably safer to report the behavior to an adult and befriend the target, which discourages the bully from attacking that person.

Remember that telling about a crime being committed isn't tattling and neither is reporting cyberbullying behavior. Both take courage and a sense of social responsibility.

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Comments or questions:

