



How can fathers address bullying issues with their children?

December 9, 2014



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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

- Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource to support fathers and families.
- Resources are available for dads, fatherhood programs, researchers, and policy makers.
- Visit the NRFC: www.fatherhood.gov
 - www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit for *Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit*.
 - www.fatherhood.gov/webinars for archives of all our webinars.
- Contact any of our staff: info@fatherhood.gov
- Encourage fathers or practitioners to contact our national call center toll-free at **1-877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411)**.
- Engage with us via social media:
Facebook: [Fatherhoodgov](https://www.facebook.com/Fatherhoodgov) Twitter: [@Fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/Fatherhoodgov)



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Kids play different roles, at different times.

They may:

- Bully.
- Be bullied.
- Assist.
- Reinforce.
- Defend.
- Be a bystander.
- See StopBullying.gov for more information:
www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/roles-kids-play/index.html



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Child's Perspective on Bullying

- Feel helpless.
- Unhappy about going to school.
- Feel like they are not good enough.
- Feel unprotected by adults in their life (parents, teachers and other adults).
- Blame themselves for their problems.
- Feel like they have to deal with bully alone.
- Worried that if they stand up for themselves they will get hurt.



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How fatherhood programs can help

- Ask dads about their own experiences growing up.
- Talk about the different roles kids play in bullying.
- Share ideas to increase dads' awareness of their kids behavior.
- Emphasize the importance of good parental role modeling and how kids learn from what they see and experience at home.
- Discuss ways they can talk with their kids.
 - How to help kids who are being bullied.
 - Recognizing and talking with kids who may be bullying.
 - General conversations about "what it's like at school," how kids can help and not just be a "bystander."



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Strategies for Parents - see [RFK](#) Bullying Prevention Tips

- Emphasize kindness in day-to-day ways.
 - Remind your children to be respectful to your friends and their friends, write thank you cards, etc.
- Expand your child's circle of concern and capacity for caring.
 - Most children have empathy for family members, help them to treat all people with kindness & empathy.
- Model the behavior you'd like your children to display.
- Get feedback from your peers about your parenting.
 - An outside perspective can alert you to any damaging or hurtful parenting behavior that you might not have noticed before.



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Tips for Dads: Monitor your child's technology

- **Check Privacy Settings** -Check that your privacy settings for the Internet and Facebook are set to the strictest levels.
- **Create Ground Rules** - If your kids are old enough to be using the computer on their own, they are old enough to understand there are rules they need to abide by.
- **Keep the Computer in a Central Place in the Home** - Computer should be located in a high-traffic zone.
 - Don't allow computer use in privacy of their own room!
- **Talk to Kids about Online Dangers** - You may feel like you're scaring your kids, but it's better for them to be scared than to be unaware.



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Talking with children who are being bullied

- You are not responsible for a bully's behavior.
 - "It's not your fault."
- Sometimes the best thing to do is to walk away.
 - "I know it may be hard but it may keep you safe."
- Talk about possible ways to avoid the bully.
 - Discuss the "Buddy system."
 - "Find a buddy to go with you to the bathroom, locker room and other places in the school."
 - Avoid being alone!





School visits

- Be proactive versus emotional. Talk with your child to identify incidents of bullying and the children involved.
- Meet with the teacher and ask what he or she intends to do to address the bullying of your child.
- If you don't see any improvement after reporting bullying to your child's teacher, speak with the school principal. Be prepared to go to the school board to get results.
- Keep notes from your meetings with teachers and administrators.





Dads in the building

- Dads play a key role in helping children navigate school culture.
- Important for dads to establish on going relationships with teachers and administrators.
- Dads who are visible in the school and participate in school based activities tend to have a rapport with other students. This helps to minimize bullying and other school conflicts.



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Contact Info and Resources

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Twitter @uchangenow

Books:

- *Khalil's Way*
- *Raising Him Alone* (for single mothers raising boys)
- *Dare To Be King* (survival workbook for adolescent African American males)

NRFC social media:

Facebook: [Fatherhoodgov](https://www.facebook.com/Fatherhoodgov) Twitter: [@Fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/Fatherhoodgov)



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How can fathers address bullying issues with their children?

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What is Cyberbullying?

Bullying + Technology = Cyberbullying

- Estimates of number of youth who have been cyberbullied range widely.
- Girls are more likely to be targeted.
- Youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or questioning are more likely to be involved, either being cyberbullied or cyberbullying others.



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Examples of Cyberbullying

- Sending mean texts.
- Creating a fake profile.
- Posting embarrassing pictures.
- Spreading rumors and gossip online.
- Altering a picture to embarrass someone.
- Sending threatening or harassing comments.



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Difference Between Cyberbullying & Bullying

- Information acceleration.
- Often spreads faster.
- Wider audience.
- Follows children home.



Cyberbullying in the news

Schoolboy, 15, bullied to death by trolls on the internet: friends say vile posts drove him to despair

- Friends say Joshua Unsworth was hounded by internet trolls
- The 15-year-old was found dead behind his home in Lancashire
- School says staff and pupils are 'shocked and upset'

By JAMES TOZER

PUBLISHED: 09:40 EST, 7 April 2013 | UPDATED: 04:36 EST, 8 April 2013



290
View comments

A schoolboy found hanged in his parents' garden had complained of cyber-bullying on a notorious social networking site, it has emerged.

Josh Unsworth, 15, had endured months of abusive messages on his profile on Ask.fm, which has been described by child safety experts as a 'stalker's paradise'.

At one point his father Gary, 46, apparently took over the page, threatening to report the abusers to police. Josh himself wrote: 'Last time I checked, cyber-bullying and "trolling" were a criminal offence.'

Ask.fm has been heavily criticised by anti-bullying charities because it allows users to post anonymous comments or questions – often of a sexual or insulting nature – on the pages of children as young as 13.

It is not covered by British online safety regulations as it is based in Latvia.

An investigation into Josh's death is at an early stage, and police who have spoken to his family say they have not been made aware he had problems with bullies.

Nevertheless, friends have taken to Facebook to blame bullies for the tragedy.

One wrote: 'RIP Josh Unsworth, we'll forever remember you! Bullied to death.' Another said: 'I hope your bullies can't sleep at night knowing what they did to you.'

Josh, whose father is sales director of a haulage firm, attended St Cecilia's Roman Catholic High School in Longridge, Lancashire.



© Ian Leonard

Victim: Joshua Unsworth, 15, was found hanged after allegedly being bullied on social media sites

Bullied to Death in FL: Lamar Hawkins, 14



Posted by UPTOWN on Sep 15, 2014



A 14 year old who had been bullied for years committed suicide at his Florida middle school last week. **Lamar Hawkins, Jr.** died from a single gunshot wound to the head. He was found in a bathroom stall late Wednesday evening at **Greenwood Lakes Middle School** in Lake Mary, Florida.

At a press conference today, his tearful mother explained her frustration over being unable to protect her son from bullies and discovering that he'd committed suicide. "It was a feeling I hope no other parent has to feel," **Shaniqua Hawkins** said. "They won, because he took his life as a result."

The Hawkins family had recently moved from New York to Florida in order to escape the constant bullying Lamar faced. Due to health complications early in life, the teen was smaller in stature than his peers, making him a target, according to the family's lawyer Matt Morgan.





Cyberbullying's Major Players

- Those who instigate (“Cyberbully”).
- Those who are bullied, often both online and offline (“Victim”).
- Those who watch, but do nothing (“Bystander”).





Someone who is cyberbullied might:

- Stop using the computer or cell phone.
- Act nervous when receiving an email, IM, or text.
- Seem uneasy about going to school.
- Withdraw from friends and family.



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What Dads Can Do: Helping children who are being cyberbullied

- Save the evidence.
- Block messages from contacts who are cyberbullying.
- Set up new accounts.
- Talk to the school.
- Report it.





Cyberbullying Behaviors

- Quickly switches screens or closes programs.
- Uses the computer at all hours.
- Gets unusually upset if they cannot use the computer.
- Laughs excessively while online.
- Avoids discussions about what they are doing.
- Uses multiple online accounts.





What Dads Can Do: Prevention

- Establish expectations for online behavior.
- Set consequences for cyberbullying.
- Model good behavior.





Teach Bystanders

- Establishing expectations for reporting.
- Encourage them to stand up for the victim.
- Report to the school or website.
- Be a good friend.

**TALK TO YOUR
CHILD ABOUT
NOT BEING
A BYSTANDER.**



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Resources

- Elementary
 - ["Bad Netiquette Stinks"](#)
- Middle/High School
 - ["You Can't Take it Back"](#)
 - ["Broken Friendship"](#)
- Intermediate/Middle
 - ["Terrible tEXt"](#)
 - ["Attitude Overdrive"](#)





Key Lessons

- People online have real feelings.
 - Empathy.
 - Explain how bullying may affect feelings of those who are bullied.
 - Respect each other.
- Cyberbullying has consequences.
 - Discuss bullying policy.
 - Trouble at school or with Law Enforcement.
- Victims aren't helpless.
 - Focus on encouragement and empowerment.





Contact Info and Resources

- Callahan Walsh: Cwalsh@NCMEC.org
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children:
<http://www.missingkids.com>
- Our NetSmartz program:
 - Content for all age groups -
<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>.
- NSTeens for Tweens - making safer choices online
<http://www.nsteens.org/>
- Teens: <http://www.netsmartz.org/Teens>
- Several safety-oriented campaigns - e.g. Take25
(<http://www.take25.org>)
- Social Media
 - Twitter - @Take25
 - Facebook.com/Take25campaign



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How can fathers address bullying issues with their children?

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National **PTA**[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]



- Founded in 1897, dedicated to advocating for every child's educational success.
- 54 state congresses, and more than 20,000 local units in all 50 states, DC, U.S. Virgin Islands, PR, and Dept. of Defense Schools in Europe.
- Current National PTA President Otha Thornton made history as the first African-American male to lead the organization.



PTA and Male Engagement

- National PTA Male Engagement Committee serves to raise level of engagement between children and the important men in their lives.
 - PTA MORE = Men Organized to Raise Engagement
 - PTA MORE Alliance Members:
 - WATCH D.O.G.S.
 - All Pro Dad
 - Strong Fathers - Strong Families
 - PTA.org/MORE





Connect for Respect

- Visit PTA.org/C4R to access:
 - PTA Leader Guide
 - PTSA Student Leader Guide
 - Additional resources



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C4R Toolkit: PTA.org/C4R

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everychild.onevoice.[®]

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- Every Child in Focus Campaign
- Family Reading Experience
- Fire Up Your Feet
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Military Alliance for Parents & Partners
- Reflections Arts Program
- Take Your Family to School Week
- Urban Family Engagement Network

Connect for Respect—Bullying

PTA | Connect For Respect
everychild.onevoice.[®] C4R

Connect for Respect (C4R) is National PTA's initiative to help students, parents and educators to create school climates full of safe and supportive peer relationships.

Research shows that one of the most effective ways to prevent bullying behavior is to create a positive school climate. School climate encompasses everything that contributes to a student's experience with a school—from the physical building to policies, staff and peer culture. Positive school climates exist in schools where students, families and educators all work collaboratively to build a culture of respect.

Use the Connect for Respect (C4R) Toolkit to guide your PTA/PTSA on ways to engage students in improving the school climate and reducing bullying.

The C4R Toolkit

- **Get started.** Walk through a step-by-step process for engaging students, parents and educators in Connect for Respect while learning about all of the tools National PTA and its partners have available for you.
 - Connect for Respect PTA Leader's Guide
 - Connect for Respect Student Leader's Guide
- **Build a team.** Invite students, teachers, community members and parents to work together in improving school climate. Give students a leadership role.
 - Sample Morning Announcements to Recruit Students
 - Template Parent Letter
 - Sample Social Media Messaging

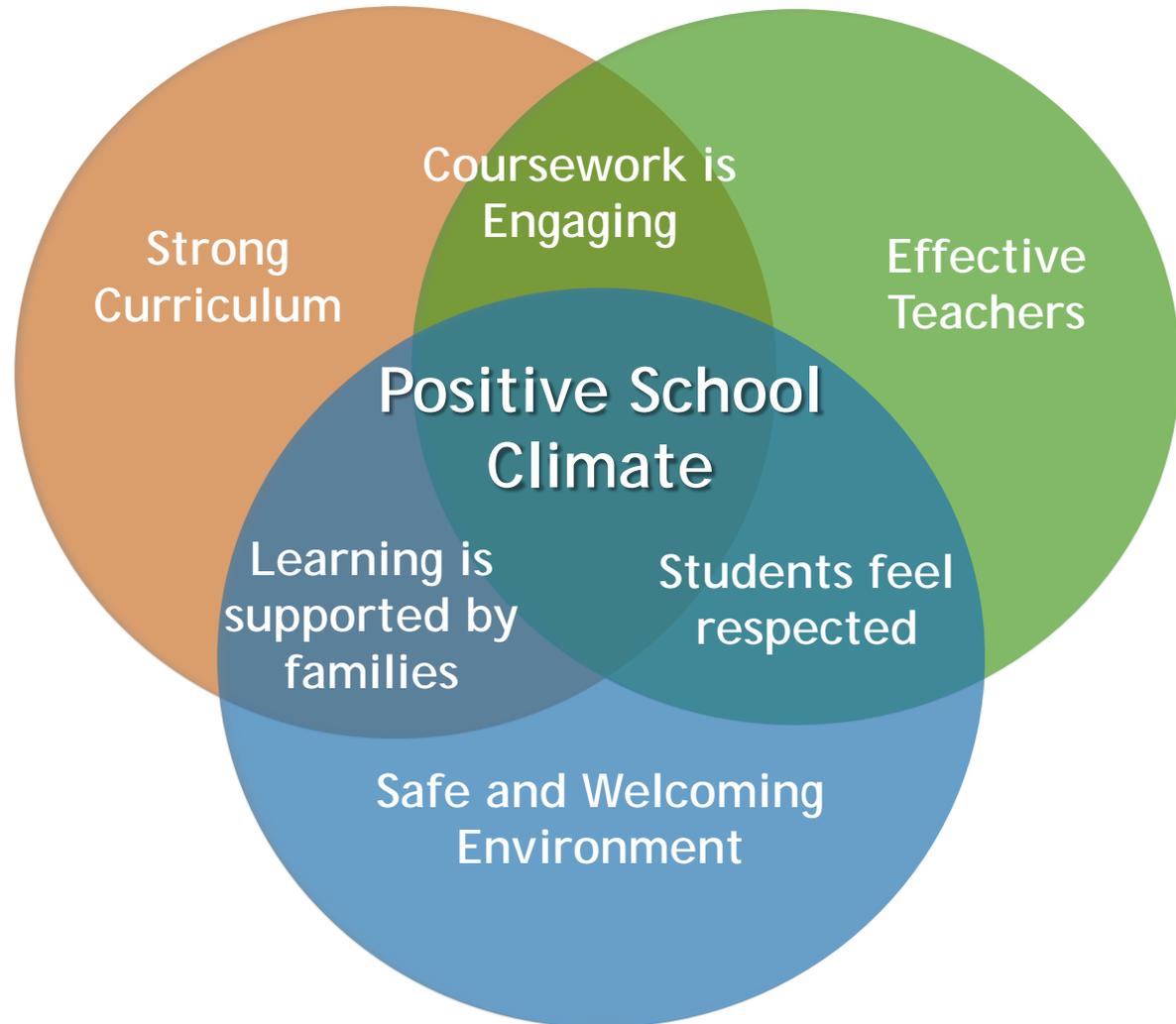
PTA Tweets...

National PTA @NationalPTA
Join us for a #ShareAwesome Twitter Party on 3/31! 10:00P + you could win \$20-\$100 gift cards. only@wednesday

National PTA @NationalPTA
We will post an archive of the #ShareTheArts conversation - find it at PTA.org/Reflections.



Bullying and School Climate





National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships



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Our approach:

Build a Connect for Respect team. Invite students, teachers, community members, and other parents to work collaboratively towards improving school climate.



Assess the school climate from the perspective of students, families and school personnel. Utilize existing tools and resources from your school.

Engage the school community at *Connect for Respect* forums, where students, families, school staff and community members come together to share their concerns and brainstorm solutions.



Develop an action plan to educate and empower family members and students, create safer and more supportive environments, and enact and enforce effective anti-bullying policies.

Empower students, family members and others to implement strategies that reflect the community's unique strengths, needs and existing school climate efforts.





Male Engagement + Connect for Respect

- Don't have to be PTA members, fathers can still partner with PTAs to join Connect for Respect teams.
- Mentoring student leaders to take a stand.
- Volunteering to supervise in areas that were bullying "hot spots" in the school climate assessment (often cafeterias or bus stops).
- Being there for students who may have been bullied or who may be acting out by bullying others.



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How can fathers get involved with PTA?

- School principal is good contact for information regarding your local PTA.
- If your local PTA is not active in male engagement efforts, go to pta.org/MORE for helpful information on how to get started.
- Not all schools have PTA, contact info@pta.org to find out more or go to pta.org/join.



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National PTA's new digital citizenship campaign: Share Awesome

Share Awesome Conversations

Here are some conversation starters to share awesome ways to make safer, smarter, more positive decisions when socializing as a digital citizen:

1 Who did you talk with today?

2 What's ok to share?

3 What's up with all the drama?

4 What's so awesome?



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Sharewesomenow.org/socializing



Coming Soon...

- Male Engagement Toolkit coming in February 2015 - PTA.org
- Resources on MORE Alliance available on PTA.org/MORE
- More resources will be posted to PTA.org/C4R as they become available.
- Feedback?
 - Contact maleengagement@pta.org with comments and questions regarding Male Engagement.
 - Contact programs@pta.org with comments and questions regarding Connect for Respect



Additional Resources

- StopBullying.gov
 - <http://www.stopbullying.gov/index.html>
 - *The Roles Kids Play*: <http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/roles-kids-play/index.html>
- National Crime Prevention Council: What Parents Can Do
 - <http://www.ncpc.org/topics/bullying/what-parents-can-do>
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – various publications on bullying
 - <http://www.ojjdp.gov/search/SearchResults.asp>
- RFK Project SEATBELT Bullying Prevention at Home: <http://bullying.rfkcenter.org/homes/seatbelt-homes/>



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