

Open Academy Workshop: “It’s nothing. It’s just cyberbullying.”

Date, Time: Thursday, 25.03.2010, 10:30 - 12:30

Trainer: Mojca Filipcic, SE Vincenzo e Diego de Castro Pirano, Slovenia

Workshop content/theme

Safety on the internet, cyberbullying

Aims

- to define and make oneself familiar with the term cyberbullying
- getting to know how to stop it and/or prevent it in the future

Method(s)/Approach

In a nutshell, the workshop was a discussion on the topic of cyberbullying. By using the snowball technique and with the help of lead questions the participant made themselves familiar with a new form of bullying, i.e. cyberbullying. Together we tried to identify the technology ICT perpetrators use and how they use it, reasons for bullying, and ways of reacting to/preventing it by the children themselves and by the school staff.

Further tips, sources, resource material or links

For the workshop handout check the page below.

For more information on the topic please visit a social bookmarking site created specifically for the purpose of this workshop: <http://www.diigo.com/user/cyberbullying>

Questions for workshop reflection and a brief summary of answers

Students: mostly asked for additional explanation of the vocabulary used. They also provided some examples of cyberbullying from their environment.

Teachers: mostly asked for additional explanation about the technology used in cyberbullying, its extent as measured by international research and differences between girls and boys.

All questions were, in my opinion, sufficiently answered considering the time-limit of a single session (30 minutes).

Impressions, Outcomes of the workshop

Because of the relative novelty of the topic the approach proved to be very useful: During the discussions teachers as well as students learned about the most important aspects of the topic. A couple of participants who were more familiar with the topic shared their views and experience with the others. Unfortunately there was too little time (30 minutes per group) to start a constructive debate on cyberbullying and get any noticeable outcomes; for that a longer workshop would be needed.

Nevertheless, the workshop was very useful especially because few participants were familiar with the term cyberbullying, let alone with the technology perpetrators use or ways of preventing attacks from happening. Nevertheless, by linking cyberbullying to some more traditional ways of bullying both teachers and students seemed to become aware of the threat cyberbullying poses for a 21st century child.

Questions from the handout the participants received:

It's nothing. It's just cyberbullying

- 1) What is cyberbullying? How is it done? Can you maybe write a short definition, draw a mindmap, etc.
- 2) Why do children cyberbully?
- 3) Is cyberbullying dangerous? Why?
- 4) How can we prevent it?
- 5) Have you got any experiences with cyberbullying? Do you know anyone who's been a victim? What happened? (Please describe his or her experience in a few words.)

