

Viewing

1. Click File → Open Message History. You can then check on the various conversations your child has had on MSN.

Note:

Some filtering programs will also allow you to record instant messaging conversations.

On-line Bullying

Bullying has been around our society for a long time. The advent of the Internet has provided a new and serious avenue for bullies to harass their victims. Threats, insults, gossip, or lies sent through e-mails are a new form of bullying in the anonymous, virtual world of cyberspace.

As well, chat lines or rooms provide another forum for bullies. Several people can gang up on another, and hurtful comments can quickly be shared by numerous people at one time using MSN or some other instant messaging service.

Bullies can type hurtful, threatening messages about someone else, and not have to see their victim's expressions of hurt, anger or embarrassment. The fallout of on-line bullying often erupts the next day at school, if the victim is brave enough to even attend, after a night of intimidation and threats by "friends" or unknown bullies.

Bullying via the Internet can be even more devious as people can easily send messages to someone they know, using an unknown e-mail address. (Anyone can create just about any e-mail address with Yahoo! or Hotmail and use it for such purposes.) The receiver may have no idea who has sent them the threatening or intimidating messages, which makes things even worse.

All this often takes place while children are "doing homework" and using the Internet. You need to be vigilant, supervising your children's on-line activities, and teaching them about proper Internet and social etiquette, respect, and empathy for others.