

Gia Despeignes

HOW ONLINE GAMING AFFECTS KIDS

And how you can help

GREIFERS

The bullies of online games

- “Griefers derive pleasure from causing **havoc and distress**” (Tucker).
- They spew hate speech and perpetuate violence.

DEPRESSION & SUICIDE

Can online games cause depression

- Reports have suggested a link between online bullying and increases in **depression, and suicide**.

HOW ARE PEOPLE COMBATING THIS HATE?

And educating people

- Asking developers to have more **representation** in games
- Having conversation with **ignorant gamers** about sexism, racism and homophobia
- Anita Sarkeesian made a video series about **feminism** and trope in video games

SHOULD I STOP MY KID FROM PLAYING ONLINE GAMES

No, taking away your kid hobby will often make them depressed

Here's how you can help

- If you're around when the harassment happens, **urge your child to continue playing** if they want to, **blocking or muting the offending player**.

SHOULD I STOP MY KID FROM PLAYING ONLINE GAMES (CONT)

- If your **kid tells you their experience**, **pay attention**. Advise them that **no one has the privilege** to make them to **feel awkward or uncomfortable**.
- It's important to reassure them that you understand the way these digital spaces work, and just want to **help them navigate them, not take them away**.
- Tell them that **harmful people want to ruin their game**, and the best thing they can do is not let them.