



Today, your children learned about killing with words...

What is gossip?

●	Gossip is talking about someone that is meant to hurt that person's reputation.	
●	It's fine to talk about people and say positive stuff, but gossiping is something different.	
●	Gossip is when a simple story gets passed around and changes so that someone's feelings can be hurt, or someone could get into trouble when she hasn't done anything wrong.	
●	It is also when someone deliberately starts a rumor about someone to hurt that person in some way. That is called malicious gossip. Malicious means that someone intends to hurt.	

What gossip can do...

Suppose your friend told you something personal and asked you not to tell anyone else. Then...

☹	you tell someone else...
☹	...they tell someone else and the story starts going round...
	
☹	...while the story is going round, it is changing as each person adds a bit more to the story...
☹	...when the story gets back to him, it doesn't resemble what he told you in the first place!
☹	...how upset would your friend be?

How to deal with gossip

- The best way is not to gossip yourself.
- Think about what you are hearing. If it is something that would embarrass or hurt the person who is being talked about, then:
 - Say, "I don't listen to gossip," and walk away
- Don't pass on what you have heard
- Tell the person who is being gossiped about – he has a right to know
- Don't tell anyone if someone has told you something private, unless that person needs the help of an adult.