



Internet Safety for Children

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The Internet Offers Many Benefits

- Communications – e-mail, instant messaging, blogging, chat rooms, club websites, etc.
- News & Reference – every major newspaper and television network are now online, encyclopedias, Google, Yahoo, etc.
- Entertainment – movie guides, music streaming and downloads, online videos, gaming, etc.
- Commerce – shopping & selling (e-bay, monster.com), banking, travel bargains, etc.

The Internet is Global

- The Internet consists of countless networks from around our world.
- No single country can set the rules.
- Standards for use can vary by community.
- The Internet relies on **self-regulation**.
- Unfortunately, like any other community, the Internet presents risks you should learn to avoid.

Risks on the Internet

- Violent, racist propaganda and groups.
- Harassment, bullying.
- Adult and child pornography.
- Sexual exploitation, online solicitation.
- Predators concealing their true identity (without visual confirmation, you have no way of telling if the 12 year old girl your child has been communicating with is really a 40 year old man).
- Legal and financial.

Statistics on Online Victimization

- There are approximately 73 Million children in the United States.
- 65% of these children access the internet from home, school, internet cafes, etc.
- At any given moment, 50,000 predators are online looking for their next victim. (NBC Dateline report, 11/4/2005)
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 20% of children age 10-17 have received unwanted sexual solicitations online.

Statistics on Online Victimization

- 20% of children age 10-17 had an unwanted exposure to pornographic material.
- Less than 10% of sexual solicitations and only 3% of unwanted exposure episodes were reported to authorities such as a law enforcement agency, ISP, hotline.
- 25% of children who encountered a sexual solicitation/approach and 40% of those reporting an unwanted exposure to sexual material told a parent.
- Only 17% of youth could name a specific authority to which they could make a report.

In the News

- Paul Brown Jr., age 47, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio received a 5 year federal prison sentence for using the Internet to persuade a 12 year old girl from New Jersey to make sexual videos of herself and send them to him.
- A Cincinnati man was sent to prison for offering on the Internet live video of himself having sex with a 3 year old girl.



In the News (cont'd)

- In March 2002, 90 people were charged in connection with an Internet-based, child-pornography ring. Those arrests were the result of a 14-month investigation across more than 20 states. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, more than 200 searches of homes and computers occurred, and subpoenas were served on Internet service providers. Twenty-seven of the people arrested have admitted to having molested more than 40 children.
- As the week progressed, the story went global. Twelve suspects were arrested in dawn raids in a worldwide swoop on an "elite" child-pornography ring. Raids were carried out in Canada, Finland, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK as well as in the U.S.

In the News (cont'd)

- Christina Long, a 13-year-old captain of her school cheerleading squad and an altar girl from a small New England town, was murdered by Saul Dos Reis, 25, who she met in an Internet chatroom.
- A 13-year-old girl in Minneapolis, Minnesota, allegedly met Joel Rensberger in a chatroom. After a telephone conversation, she agreed to meet him, believing that he was 18. The eighth grader told police that Rensberger took her to a motel. Once they got there she said he gave her a video game to play and some wine coolers to drink. Rensberger then allegedly raped the 13-year-old. After the assault, she says they left the hotel and Rensberger drove her home

In the News (cont'd)

- On New Year's Day 2002, Scott Tyree, described as a long-haired computer geek who likes science fiction and computer games, allegedly picked up a 13-year-old girl from her home in Pennsylvania and drove her to Virginia. At first investigators didn't know what they were up against since the girl disappeared from her home without a coat or money at about 6 P.M. during dinner. They were, however, able to track down Tyree through his Internet communications and found the girl three days later chained to the bed in Tyree's townhome.
- James Warren, 41, and Beth Loschin, 46, allegedly held a 15-year-old girl for a week in their home in New York, where they repeatedly assaulted her sexually and beat her. The young girl was also brought to the home of a third alleged abuser who threatened to kill her if she did not follow orders. Warren and Loschin convinced the high school sophomore to meet them at the outlet mall where she worked. The girl originally met Loschin and Warren in an online chatroom where the couple offered to help the girl run away from home.

The Many Faces of a Sexual Offender



“It begins with fantasy, moves to gratification through pornography, then voyeurism, and finally contact.” Dr. Chris Hatcher, Professor of Psychology, University of California, San Francisco

The Many Faces of a Sexual Offender



Appeal of Computers to Offenders

- Expand the offender's opportunity to establish contact with children.
 - Identify and locate potential victims worldwide.
 - Use disguised identities when communicating with children.
- Provides them with the ability to contact others with similar sexual interest in children.
 - Trade child pornography.
 - Gain access to each other's children.

Appeal of Computers to Offenders

- Provides a medium for real time communication with children and other offenders.
- Provides mutual support for their adult-child sex philosophies.
- Allows for the rationalization of their behavior.
 - “The support group sites give pedophiles a real sense of power and the impetus to go out and molest someone.” Gary Hewitt, Psychotherapist

Victim Issues

- Child may fear punishment for their behavior and not report victimization or solicitation.
 - Fear of being punished for disobeying their parents' rules.
 - Fear of losing computer privileges for viewing pornography, bullying, harassment.
- Victim motivated not to tell.
- Victim may feel ashamed of approaching an adult about being victimized or solicited.
- Victim thinks that no one will understand or believe them.
- Victim does not see any harm in inappropriate use.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

- Never allow your child to give out identifying information to anyone without your permission.
 - (name, age, photo, home address, school name or location, telephone number, etc.)
- Never allow your child to respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you or your child feel uncomfortable.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

- Be careful about offers that involve sending money or credit card information.
- Remember that any offer that seems “too good to be true” probably is.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

- Never give out your passwords
 - If someone calls and says they're an online service and needs your password, get their name, number, e-mail address and then hang up. Call the service using an independently verified number and ask if such a person works there and whether they allow employees to ask for passwords.
 - **Don't allow your child to share passwords with anyone (Except you) not even friends.**
- Do not use screen names that can be traced back to you.
 - Avoiding using initials, address, age, or gender identity in your screen names.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

- Make sure your child is only exchanging e-mails, instant messages, etc. with someone you know.
- Only use chat areas that are supervised and run by a reputable service or site.
- Monitor general behavior and attitude – advise your child to leave the chat area if they become uncomfortable.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

Teach your child to **ALWAYS** respect your rules regarding the time of day and length of time they may access the Internet, and appropriate areas they may visit. Do not allow them access to areas that you feel are unsafe, inappropriate, or forbidden for children. Remember, your rules are meant to protect your child from predators that wish to harm them.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

NEVER allow your child to arrange a face to face meeting with someone they met online without your knowledge or permission. If you agree to the meeting, make sure the meeting is in a public place and be sure to accompany them to the site.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

Teach your child to **ALWAYS** report illegal material such as child pornography or other information that makes them feel uncomfortable to you or the proper authorities. Assure your child he/she will not be punished for the behavior of another person, and you will grow to trust them more if they are more open and forthcoming with you about such episodes.

Guidelines to Reducing Risk

- Teach your child it's OK to tell you if someone sends them pornography, especially child pornography (it is a serious crime).
- It's OK to tell you or a teacher if they are concerned about one of their friends arranging a meeting with someone they met online.

Agencies Fighting Internet Crime

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- United States Secret Service
- United States Customs
- United States Postal Inspector
- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces (ICAC)
- State and Local Law Enforcement

Websites

- www.missingkids.com
- www.netsmartz.org
- <http://sniprul.com/cyberbully>
- www.cuyahoga.oh.us
- www.childhelpusa.org
- www.cybersmart.org
- www.ftc.gov/infosecurity
- www.getnetwise.com
- www.icactraining.org
- www.safeteens.com
- www.ikeepSAFE.org
- www.wiredkids.org

THE END

Thank you for being a wonderful
and receptive audience.



QUESTIONS?