

Internet SafetyNight



Keeping Your Child Safe on the Internet

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Welcome

We are first-generation Internet parents

- Our children are the first generation to be born and raised with the Internet as part of their everyday lives.
- Our children know more about the Internet than we do!





Goals for Tonight

- To understand what our children are doing online
- To keep our children safe when they're online
- To teach our children to make smart choices when they're online
- To start a discussion about Internet safety that we continue with our families and others beyond tonight



What Children Do Online

- Visit virtual worlds
- Play multiuser games
- Text or instant message one another
- Post profiles and interact with others on social networking sites
- View and post videos
- Download music, movies, and more
- Create and upload art
- Do research





Virtual Worlds

- Popular virtual worlds:
 - » Poptropica
 - » Club Penguin
 - » Whyville
- Some are better than others
- Visit and play yourself
- Use parental controls to restrict sites





Social Networking Sites

- Popular social networking sites:
 - » Facebook
 - » MySpace
 - » Twitter
 - » Formspring
- Users create “profiles.”
- Communicate with friends.
- Find people with similar interests.



Texting and Instant Messaging

- These allow children to “talk” with friends at any time on the computer or a cell phone.
- Texting and instant messaging has replaced email as a preferred method of communication.





Video-Sharing Sites

- Popular video-sharing sites:
 - » YouTube
 - » Vimeo
- Users view and post videos.
- Post and read comments about the video content.





Online Games

- Consoles like Xbox Live are increasingly connected to the Internet, allowing kids to play against friends and strangers.
- Many allow players to talk in real time using headsets and microphones.
- Kids may be exposed to “trash talk” or worse.





Online Concerns

- Cyberbullying
- Disturbing content
- Viruses and spyware
- Sexual predators



Cyberbullying

- Posting or forwarding a private text or embarrassing image to others
- Tricking someone into revealing embarrassing information and forwarding it to others
- Spreading malicious rumors
- Stealing passwords



Protecting Against Cyberbullying

- Never respond to unkind remarks.
- Don't participate in cyberbullying.
- Block the cyberbully.
- Tell a trusted adult.
- Save the posts.
- Notify law enforcement, if appropriate.
- Notify your child's school, if appropriate.



Inappropriate Content



- There are “bad” parts of the Internet, just as there are “bad” parts of town.
- Shield your child with:
 - » parental control software
 - » child-friendly search engines
 - » bookmarks to favorite sites
- Teach your child what to do if he accidentally views disturbing content.



Malicious Files



Your computer may become infected with viruses and spyware through:

- » downloads
- » emails
- » peer-to-peer networking
- » infected websites



Sexual Predators

- Masquerade as other children or kindly adults
- Trick children into revealing personal information
- Lure children and teenagers into meeting them in person



Keep Personal Information Private

- Never reveal:
 - » Name
 - » Address
 - » Phone number
 - » School name
- Don't post or send photographs of yourself.
- Choose a nondescript screen name.





Learn How To Use Privacy Settings

- Become familiar with the websites your child visits.
- Read privacy policies.
- Settings should be “private.”





If a Stranger Contacts Your Child

- Make sure your child knows:
 - » Don't respond
 - » Contact an adult right away
 - » Block the offender
- Notify your internet service provider, if warranted.
- Notify CyberTipline
www.cybertipline.com



Basic Ways To Keep Your Child Safe

- Sign an “Internet Safety Contract.”
- Keep the computer in a public area of your home.
- Set a time limit for computer use.
- Become familiar with the sites your child visits.
- Know your child’s online “friends.”
- Know your child’s passwords.
- Keep your security software up to date.



Basic Internet Rules for Children

- Never give out identifying information.
- Never write or post anything you wouldn't be comfortable with the whole world seeing.
- Treat others online as you would treat them in person.
- Never share your password.
- Never open an email or click on a link from someone you don't know.
- Never download or click on anything without checking with me or another trusted adult first.



Resources



- **ConnectSafely**
www.connectsafely.org
Tips, advice, and the latest news on online safety.
- **AllSafeSites**
<http://www.allsafesites.com/>
A child-safe Internet search engine.
- **Common Sense Media**
www.common sense media.org
Reviews and rates websites and other media for children according to age-appropriateness.
- **Trend Micro**
www.trendmicro.com/go/safety
Lots of information on Internet safety for families from Trend Micro, the sponsor of this Internet Safety Night presentation.