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Internet Safety

Keeping your kids safe online.



Communication



Early on, children begin to use electronic devices. It is imperative to establish clear rules and expectations for online activity since they have extensive technological knowledge and skills at a young age. It is important to remember that once something goes viral it is always accessible.

You should discuss the potential dangers of the Internet with your children, such as inappropriate material, sexual solicitation, harassment, and bullying. Make it a point to encourage your children to confide in you about anything that makes them uncomfortable.

Dear Friend,

Communication and access to information have never been easier thanks to the internet. The internet is becoming increasingly powerful every day with new mobile apps and services. However, it also offers children a dangerous opportunity for victimization because of its anonymity and permanence.

There will be a significant amount of time spent on the internet by children regardless of whether they use it at home, at school, or on their mobile devices.

The best way to protect them online is to teach them how to stay safe.

Sincerely,

Senator Greg Rothman



Controlling Access

- Protect your child’s posts, profiles, and communications by setting limits on their devices.
- Monitor your child’s online activity by installing filtering, tracking, and blocking software.
- Limit your child’s exposure to inappropriate content by adjusting your Internet Service Provider’s (ISP’s) parental controls.
- Check your child’s computer and mobile device Internet history.
- Set time limits for your children when they are online and monitor them regularly.
- Be sure to monitor any social media apps your child may have installed on their devices.
- At bedtime, turn off electronic devices and store them outside of the bedroom.

Online Safety Plan

- Set age-appropriate Internet rules, and make sure everyone understands them.
- Be aware of your children’s passwords
- Make sure your child is aware of the dangers of relying on online profiles on social networks and blogging, as there is no way of knowing who the person is on the other end.

ADVISE YOUR CHILD TO NEVER:

- Make plans to meet face-to-face with someone they met online.
- Provide their name, phone number, address, school name, parent’s name, or any other personal information.
- Send compromising images of oneself or others.
- Cyberbully by forwarding photos or comments that are mean or inappropriate.



OVER **80%** of teens use a **cell phone**, making it the **most common** medium for **cyber bullying**

If There’s a Problem...

Report disturbing incidents to your Internet service provider and local law enforcement. Give them the screen name, email address and any other information you have about the predator.

Visit the “Operation Safe Surf” program offered by the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office at www.attorneygeneral.gov.



Know the Signs

Your child might be at risk if he or she:

- Online a lot, especially late at night.
- When you ask what they are doing online, they turn the computer off quickly or become upset.
- Makes long-distance calls or receives calls from adults you don’t know.
- Receives mail or gifts from people you don’t know.
- Utilizes another person’s online account.



43% of kids have been **bullied online**

1 in 4 has had it happen more than once

ABOUT **1 in 5** teens have **posted or sent** suggestive or nude pictures of themselves

