

A computer monitor is shown in silhouette on the right side of the image. The screen displays a glowing, wireframe globe of the internet, with a grid of lines and nodes. The background is a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is digital and global.

Internet Safety: How to Protect Your Child
by: Tiffiany Uzarski

Overview – What's Important

- ✓ General Information
 - ✓ How and why kids connect
 - ✓ What are they connecting to
- ✓ Understanding of risks and issues kids face online
 - ✓ Cyberbullying
 - ✓ Revealing too much information
 - ✓ Predators
- ✓ How can you help make them safer?

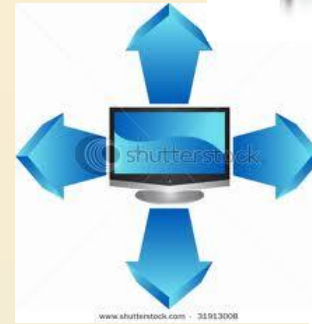
Internet



They Really Aren't That Different from Us

- ✓ Passing notes = **Texting**
- ✓ Buying CDs = **Downloading music**
- ✓ Playing board games = **Online gaming**
- ✓ Writing in a journal = **Blogging**
- ✓ Dressing a baby doll = **Dressing an avatar**
- ✓ Hanging out at the mall = **Social networking**

Your Child's Online Life



Risky Decisions

- ✓ “Friending” unknown people
- ✓ Posting personal information
- ✓ Embarrassing or harassing people
- ✓ Talking about sex
- ✓ Sending or posting provocative images
- ✓ Sharing passwords with friends
- ✓ Clicking on pop-ups



Technology + Bullying = Cyberbullying

Quick Statistics

- ✓ School bullying statistics surveys show that 77% of students are bullied mentally, verbally, & physically. Cyber bullying statistics are rapidly approaching similar numbers.
- ✓ 1 out of 5 kids on a school bullying statistics and cyber bullying statistics study admit to being a bully, or doing some “Bullying.”
- ✓ Only 44% indicated they would tell an adult if bullied

Cyberbullying

- ✓ Spreading rumors and gossip using technologies like cell phones and instant message programs
- ✓ Posting inappropriate pictures of someone without consent
- ✓ Stealing passwords to assume someone else's identity and adding embarrassing information to their account
- ✓ And threatening or harassing others with offensive language, which is easier to do online since there is no face-to-face confrontation

Cyberbullying Video



NetSmartz® Workshop

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Signs of Cyberbullying

✓ A victim might:

✓ Suddenly stop using the computer or cell phone

✓ Acts nervous when receiving an e-mail, IM, or text

✓ Seems uneasy about going to school

✓ Or withdraws from friends and family

What You Can Do

- ✓ Tell your child not to respond to rude e-mails, messages, and comments.
- ✓ Save the evidence, such as e-mail and text messages, and take screenshots of comments and images. Also, take note of the date and time when the harassment occurs.
- ✓ Contact your Internet service provider (ISP) or cell phone provider. Ask the website administrator or ISP to remove any Web page created to hurt your child.
- ✓ If harassment is via e-mail, social networking sites, IM, and chat rooms, instruct your child to “block” bullies or delete your child’s current account and open a new one.
- ✓ If harassment is via text and phone messages, change the phone number and instruct your child to only share the new number with trustworthy people. Also, check out phone features that may allow the number to be blocked.
- ✓ Get your child’s school involved. Learn the school’s policy on cyberbullying and urge administrators to take a stance against all forms of bullying.
- ✓ Make a report to www.cybertipline.com, and if you feel something illegal has occurred, inform law enforcement.



REVEALING
TOO MUCH



Revealing Too Much

Crossing the Line

- ✓ Writing an “I hate my teacher” blog
- ✓ Giving an e-mail address to an online gamer
- ✓ Sending a naked picture from a cell phone (this is referred to as sexting)
- ✓ Putting too much information up on their social networking sites. 73% of kids ages 12-17 are on social networking sites (Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2010)
- ✓ Even inappropriate screen names can say something about your child
 - ✓ Sxcbebe = “Sexy Baby”
 - ✓ Kid_booz3r = “Kid Boozer”
 - ✓ Gangsta_4lif = “Gangster for Life”

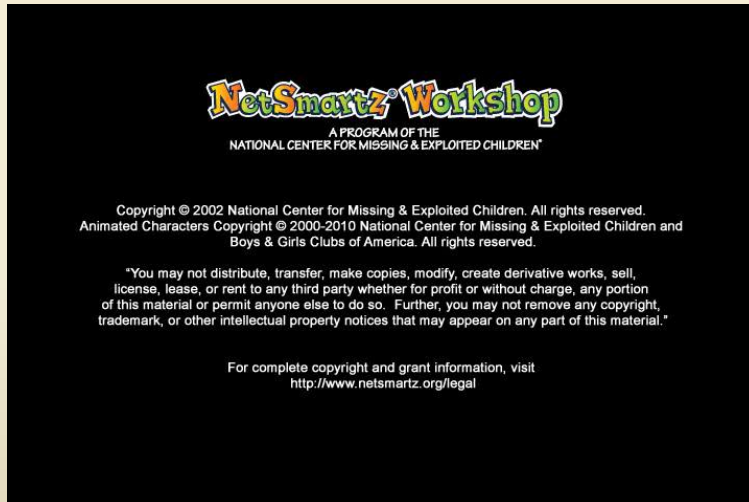
Revealing Information

✓ Facebook

✓ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1465539181>

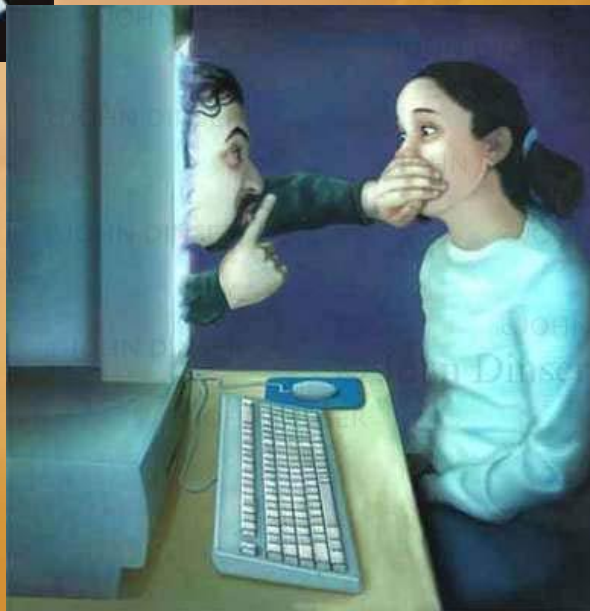
✓ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001222715043&ref=ts>

✓ Tracking Teresa



What You Can Do

- ✓ Make sure that your child takes advantage of the privacy settings on social networking sites.
- ✓ Pre-approve the pictures and videos your child posts online.
- ✓ Remind your child never to post e-mail addresses or cell phone numbers.
- ✓ Tell your child that passwords should only be shared with parents and guardians.
- ✓ Teach your child not to respond to any e-mails requesting personal information and to delete e-mails from unknown senders.
- ✓ Discuss how to keep screennames and e-mail addresses gender-neutral, appropriate, and free of any information that could reveal identity.
- ✓ Encourage your child to tell you right away if anything happens online that bothers or frightens him or her.



Online Predators

Quick Statistics

- ✓ 71% of student don't think an Internet predator will contact them
- ✓ 63% do not fully understand the potential risk
- ✓ Only 40% indicated they would tell an adult if contacted

Grooming

- ✓ Exploiting a child's natural curiosity about sex
- ✓ Lowering the child's inhibitions by gradually introducing explicit images and child sex abuse images
- ✓ Using his or her adult status to influence and control a child's behavior
- ✓ Offering attention and affection
- ✓ Betraying a child's trust by manipulating his or her emotions and insecurities

Grooming Video



Warning Signs of Grooming

✓ A victim might:

- ✓ Spends an excessive amount of time on the computer
- ✓ Becomes angry when he or she cannot get on the computer
- ✓ Withdraws from family and friends
- ✓ Minimizes the screen or turns off the monitor when you come into the room
- ✓ Inappropriate images or websites on the computer
- ✓ Strange phone numbers on your telephone bill
- ✓ Gifts in the mail from someone you don't know, such as webcams or cell phones

What You Can Do

- ✓ Your child should NEVER meet face-to-face with anyone they first met online without your permission and/or attendance
- ✓ Take an interest in your child's online activities and know with whom he or she is communicating
- ✓ Teach your child to refrain from talking about sex with anyone they meet online
- ✓ Do not hesitate to ask questions, especially if your child is acting suspiciously
- ✓ Teach your child not to reveal personal information
- ✓ Approve all photos and videos before your child posts them online. Make sure they do not reveal identifying information and are not sexually provocative or inappropriate
- ✓ Look for warning signs. If you feel your child is in danger, make a report to www.cybertipline.com and contact your local law-enforcement agency immediately

Warning
Adult content,
be at least 18 y
to enter this



Protect Your Children

Communication

✓ Do your homework

- ✓ Check the web for more information
- ✓ Google your child's name and see what comes up
- ✓ Look for discussion starters with your kids

✓ The single biggest ally your child has to protect them from online dangers is YOU

- ✓ Be involved
- ✓ Talk to your kids
- ✓ Teach them the rules

Resources

- ✓ www.netsmartz.org
- ✓ Aftab.com
- ✓ Cyberlawenforcement.org
- ✓ StopCyberbullying.org
- ✓ KatiesPlace.org
- ✓ NetBullies.com
- ✓ Teenangels.org
- ✓ WiredCops.org
- ✓ [Wired Kids, Inc. \(www.wiredkids.com\)](http://WiredKids.com)
- ✓ WiredKids.org
- ✓ WiredSafety.org
- ✓ <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide/parent-guide>

Acknowledgements

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