

Internet Safety Information

Tips for Parents and Teachers

Many kids use the Internet for both educational and entertainment purposes. Kids may also accidentally come across information while online that is sexual, violent, or misleading in nature. Talking to your kids about Internet safety beforehand will help prevent them from exploitation.

Facts about Child Safety and the Internet:

Solicitation: A recent study found that 1 in 5 kids age 10-17 had received a sexual solicitation while online.

Exposure: The same study found that 1 in 4 kids had been inadvertently exposed to sexually explicit material while surfing the net.

Child Pornography: The number of new FBI cases related to online pedophilia has quadrupled in just the past 2 years.

Targeting: Pedophiles may target young children through an electronic bulletin board, a youth-related chat room or website. By assuming the persona of a child, a pedophile can become pen pals with a child, collect information, and gain the child's trust. After building the relationship, he/she may slowly begin to expose the child to pornographic materials, or suggest that they arrange to meet.

The following are safety tips for kids while online.

1. Don't give out any personal information such as last name, address or phone number, location of school or after school activities.
2. Don't give out your parents' names, workplaces, or credit card numbers.
3. Remember, not everyone tells the whole truth online. You may think you are talking to a 14 year old boy from Carmel, but it could really turn out to be a 45 year old man from Los Angeles.



Monterey Office: (831) 373-3955

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4. Never send pictures of yourself, to a friend you meet online without getting your parents' permission first.
5. If you ever come across messages, pictures, or other materials that make you feel uncomfortable, report it to parent, teacher, or librarian immediately.
6. Never agree to meet with someone that you have met online without your parent's permission.

Tips for Parents

1. Keep computers in a centrally located area of the house. If the computer is in a child's bedroom "secret communication" can more easily transpire.
2. Let your child know that she or he should let you know immediately if they have been propositioned, or have come across sexually explicit material or messages.
3. The FBI is tracking statistics of such incidents. We encourage you to make a report to your Internet service provider, or www.missingkids.com or 1-800-843-5678, which takes reports and provides information regarding Internet child exploitation.

If you have teens: Discuss some of the healthy uses of the Internet with your teen. The Internet is a great resource for questions they may have about sexuality, sexual orientation, contraception and STD's that they may be too uncomfortable or embarrassed to ask about in person. The following websites provide excellent and accurate information about these topics and can direct teens toward local resources:

www.teenwire.com Sexuality and Relationship Info from Planned Parenthood

www.sxetc.org A Website by teens, for teens ~ Interactive Newsletter

www.ppmarmonte.org Planned Parenthood's local website

www.isafe.org to learn more about the internet



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