



Cyber Savvy Parents

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A SERIES TO ASSIST PARENTS IN THE ONLINE AND MOBILE WORLD.

ISSUES IN THE SERIES

- The Basics. 1**
- What You Need To Know**
- Social Networking 2**
- Parental Control 3**
- Teens & Mobile Technology 4**
- Cyber Bullying 5**

The Basics, What You Need To Know

As parents it is our responsibility to learn everything we can to protect our children. This series of newsletters are designed for you to learn to be a cyber savvy parent.

First lets learn about some basic definitions.

Internet—An immense, global network that connects, computers via telephone lines and/or fiber networks to storehouses of electronic information. With only a computer, a modem, a telephone line and a service provider, people from all over the world can communicate and share information with little more than a few keystrokes.

Public Chat Rooms— Created, maintained, listed and monitored. A number of customers can be in the public chat room at any given time, hich are monitored for illegal activity and even appropriate language by systems operators.

Electronic Mail (E-mail)- A function which provides for the transmission of messages and files between computers over a communications network. E-mail is stored on a server, where it will remain until the addressee retrieves it.

Private, real-time text conversation between two users in a chat room.

Chat - Real-time text conversation between users in a chat room with no expectation of privacy. All chat conversation is accessible by all individuals in the chat room while the conversation is taking place.

Instant Messages— Private, real-time text conversation between two users in a chat room.



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Did you know!

Teens are willing to meet with strangers: 16 percent of teens considered meeting someone they've only talked to online and 8 percent have actually met someone they only knew online. Four percent of all youth Internet users received aggressive sexual solicitations online.

Get Involved With Your Child Online



It's a good idea to take an active role in protecting your child from internet predators and sexually explicit materials that are online. Here are some steps that can help you do that:

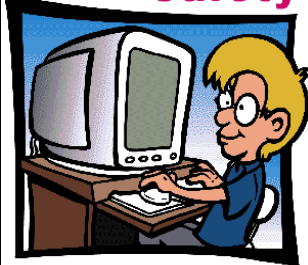
- Become computer literate and learn how to block objectionable material.
- Keep the computer in a common area, not in individual bedrooms, where you can watch and monitor your child.
- Share an email account with your child so you can monitor messages.
- Bookmark your child's favorite sites for easy access.
- Spend time online together to teach your child appropriate online behavior.
- Forbid your child from entering private chat rooms; block them with safety features provided by your internet service provider or with special filtering software. Be aware that posting messages to chat rooms reveals your child's e-mail address to others.
- Monitor your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
- Find out what, if any, online protection is offered by your child's school, after-school center, friends' homes, or any place where he or she could use a computer without supervision.
- Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.
- Forward copies of obscene or threatening messages you or your child receives to your Internet service provider.

References:

www.kidshealth.org

www.safekids.com

Internet Safety



Kid Friendly Sites and Search Engines

Nick

<http://www.nick.com/>

Webkins

http://www.webkinz.com/us_en/

PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/>

Club Penguin

<http://www.clubpenguin.com/>

Disney

<http://disney.go.com/index>

Cartoon Network

[http://www.cartoonnetwork.c](http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/)

[om/](http://www.clubpenguin.com/)

KidZui

<http://www.kidzui.com/>

Yahoo for Kids

<http://kids.yahoo.com/>

Discovery Channel

<http://dsc.discovery.com/>