

CYBERBULLYING

"Cyberbullying" is a term used when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another person using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

Cyberbullying can take the form of direct text messages, instant messages or disparaging remarks posted on a social media site for others to see.

What to do if Cyberbullying occurs:

- Forward copies of obscene or threatening messages you or your kids get to your Internet service provider.
- Never respond to a threatening e-mail or message.
- Always tell a parent about any communication or conversation that was scary.
- Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.
- Call the Police and make a report.



CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND THE INTERNET

Call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 if you're aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography online. Contact your local law enforcement agency or the FBI if your child has received child pornography via the Internet.

INTERNET SAFETY RESOURCES

www.netsmartz411.org: Internet safety information by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

www.ncdoj.gov: The N.C Department of Justice website.

www.kidsclick.org: A kid friendly search engine with no advertisements.

www.connectsafely.org: Information for parents and teens about safe use of social media websites such as MySpace or Facebook.

www.safekids.com: Advice and tools on how to help kids use the Internet safely.

www.netfamilynews.org: Updated news for parents about the latest trends in technology that can touch their children.

www.staysafe.org: An online safety site operated by Microsoft.

www.getnetwise.org: A broad-ranging site on Internet safety operated by a partnership of Internet industry corporations and public interest organizations.

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CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

from the Winston-Salem Police Department

INTERNET SAFETY

Be aware of what your kids see and hear on the Internet.



INTERNET SAFETY

The Internet can be a wonderful resource for kids. They can use it to research school reports, communicate with teachers and other kids, and play interactive games. Kids who are old enough to punch in a few letters on the keyboard can literally access the world.

But that access can also pose hazards. For example, an 8-year-old might search online for "Lego." But with just one missed keystroke, the word "Legs" is entered instead, and the child may be directed to websites with a focus on legs – some of which may contain pornographic material.

That's why it's important to be aware of what your kids see and hear on the Internet, who they meet, and what they share about themselves online. Your kids' best online protection is you. By talking to them about potential online dangers and monitoring their computer use, you'll help them surf the Internet safely.



TIPS FOR SAFE INTERNET USE

- Bookmark kids' favorite sites for easy access.
- Become computer literate and learn how to block objectionable material.
- Keep the computer in a common area, where you can watch and monitor its use.
- Share an e-mail account with your child so you can monitor messages.
- 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 a user's e-mail address to others.
- Monitor your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
- Never trade personal photographs in the mail or scanned photographs over the Internet.
- Never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location. Use only a screen name. Never agree to meet anyone from a chat room in person.

PARENTAL SUPERVISION

- Sit down with your child while they explore the Internet.
- Let your child know which sites and topics are and are not acceptable for them to explore.
- Explain to them why the sites are good or bad.
- Discuss the Internet with your child just like you

would if you saw something on the TV or in the newspaper that was inappropriate.

- Show your child how to determine if a website has valuable information. Have them ask such questions as, "Where did this site obtain its information?"; "Is this site reliable?"; "Is the information on this site biased?"; and "What are they trying to get me to believe about their site?"
- Always have your child research more than one location to confirm information on a website.
- Ask your child what websites they should be able to access and why.

INTERNET DANGERS

Sexual material: Internet users can find pornographic or sexually oriented sites by mistake.

Sexual predators: The Internet is one way that sexual predators locate and contact children without being found out.

Alcohol/Drugs: Some websites make it seem that alcohol and drug use is good. There are sites where illegal drugs are sold.

Gambling: Some websites allow people to gamble online without verifying age.

Violence: Some websites explain how to buy, purchase or make weapons and how to carry out violent acts.

Hate and intolerance: Some websites promote hatred based on race, sex, religion or sexual orientation.