

What Parents Need to Know About Internet Safety for Children

According to a survey of 1,500 children, 10 to 17 years of age:

- ◆ 1 out of 5 children were sexually solicited over the Internet
- ◆ 1 in 4 children received an unwanted picture of nudity or sexual activity
- ◆ 49% of children who were solicited for sex told no one
- ◆ The most common reason children didn't tell anyone was because they were afraid their parents would take away their internet privileges

Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center creates healthy homes, through education and compassionate service for victims of family violence and child abuse.

For more information contact: Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center

Lucas: 419-244-3053

Wood: 419/352-7027

Children's Advocacy Center: 419-292-2927

www.fcapc.org

In order to keep their children safe, parents need to closely monitor their child's use of the internet and give them specific rules regarding its use. Here are some rules suggested by the FBI and other organizations that promote internet safety:

- ◆ Computers should be in public areas of the home such as a living room or family room and not in a child's bedroom. This makes it easier for parents to monitor their child's Internet usage.
- ◆ There should be a reasonable limit on the time your child spends on the Internet.
- ◆ Use parental blocks or controls – contact your Internet provider for more information.
- ◆ Tell your child not to give out any personal information on the Internet such as name, address, age, e-mail address, telephone number, or name and location of their school.
- ◆ Instruct your child not to talk to strangers on the Internet. This includes using chat rooms. Sexual predators often pose as children on the Internet to gain access to children.
- ◆ Tell your child never to set up a meeting with someone they have met only on the Internet without your permission.
- ◆ Children under the age of 16 should not be allowed to participate on social networking websites. MySpace and Facebook are examples of social networking websites. If you allow your child to use a social networking website, monitor the information posted by your child and make sure their page is set as private. If it is not set as private, anyone who has an account can view any and all information and pictures that are posted by your child.
- ◆ Maintain open communication with your child. Children should be instructed to tell their parents if they come across anything on the Internet that makes them feel uncomfortable or something they have a question about. Use your child's disclosure as a teaching opportunity. If you take away internet privileges, your child may be more reluctant to confide in you if it happens again.
- ◆ Instruct your child not to engage in on-line bullying and to tell you if they are the victim of on-line bullying.

For more information check out:
www.netsmartz.org, www.isafe.org,
www.missingkids.com, www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm



INTERNET SAFETY PLEDGE FOR PARENTS:

I will talk to my child about the following safety concerns regarding the Internet:

1. I will talk to my child about what kind of information he/she should not share on the Internet such as name, address, age, e-mail address, telephone number or the name and location of his/her school.
2. I will instruct my child not to talk to anyone on the Internet that he/she has not already met in person.
3. I will instruct my child not to set up a meeting with anyone he/she has only talked to on the Internet and not to post pictures of him/herself on the Internet without talking to me about it first.
4. I will instruct my child to come to me if he/she comes across anything on the Internet that he/she has questions about or feels uncomfortable about.
5. I will not punish my child by taking away Internet privileges if he/she comes to me with an Internet concern or if I find out that my child has broken an Internet safety rule. Instead I will use this opportunity as a teaching experience for my child.
6. I will talk to my child about online bullying and instruct my child to tell me if he/she is a victim of online bullying. I will also instruct my child not to bully other children online.

Parent's Signature:

INTERNET SAFETY PLEDGE FOR YOUTH:

1. I will not give out any personal information on the Internet such as my name, address, age, e-mail address, telephone number or the name and location of my school.
2. I will not talk to anyone on the Internet that I have not already met in person.
3. I will never set up a meeting with someone I have only talked to on the Internet without getting my parent's permission and my parent agrees to attend the meeting with me in a public place.
4. I will not put pictures of myself on the Internet unless I get permission from my parents.
5. If I come across anything on the Internet that makes me uncomfortable or that I have questions about I will talk to my parents about it.

Child's Signature:

