

Parenting



in the
Information Age

Is the Internet Safe?

- The Internet is as safe as any busy neighborhood street.
- If you know what to watch for and how to react to the dangerous situations you and your children will not have a problem.
- Young children still need to hold their parents hand while older children still need to have a watchful eye on them.



What do you do online?



What do your children do online?

- Play Games
 - Games with or without Chat
- IM/E-mail
 - Friends or strangers
 - SPAM, PHISHING
- Use/Visit Social Networking Sites (MySpace, Xanga, FaceBook, WebKins ...)
 - Private and Personal Info
- Surf
 - Just having fun, hobbies
- School Work

What is the danger?

- Online Predators



- Identity Theft



- Cyber Bullying

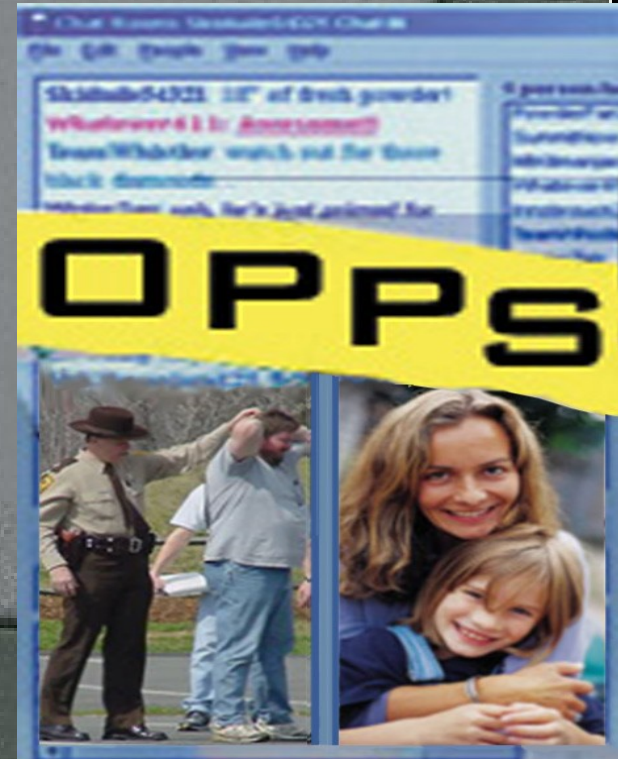


- Pornography



Online Predators

- Seduce children into giving them personal information so they can find them or entice them to come and see them in person (grooming)
- Usually Men 24 – 65
- A lot is being done to crack down on predators, but you and your children need to know what to do to avoid them.



Cyber Bullying

- Can be much worse than in person
- Neither side can see the other so facial expressions and gestures are lost
- Less guilt for the bully
- This bullying follows you home and enters your house which should be safe



Identity Theft

Children

- Use SN to get you in trouble with friends
- Sign you up for unwanted accounts and give out your information

You

- Use your name and Social Security # to get credit cards etc.



Pornography

- 420 million pages of pornography online
- children between ages 12 and 17 are the most frequent visitors (not by accident)
- Predators will also use child pornography to seduce kids and get them used to thinking it is ok and normal to do the pictured activities



Social Networking Sites

What's the Big Deal?

- Breeding ground for all of the preceding issues
- Kids put up too much info
- Kids talk to anyone and let anyone join their "friends" list
- If their "friends" list is not big enough they are not cool (400-500 "friends" sometimes)
- Don't make a profile, or (if you must) make a very generic one with no private info and very little personal info

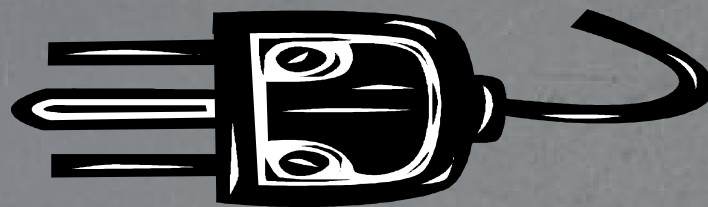
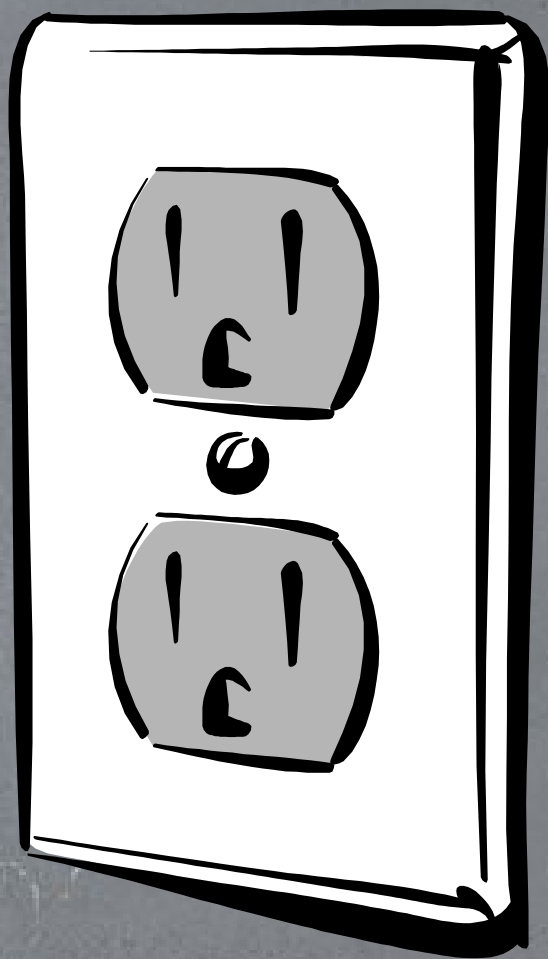
What to Watch For (How do I know?)

- Hiding computer disks
- Turning off the monitor or minimizing windows when you enter the room
- Spending lots of time online especially late at night and stress if they can't
- Getting phone calls or mail from strangers, especially older men

Other Issues

- Illegal Music/Video Downloads
 - P2P software (WinMx, KaaZa, Morpheus, Ares, Bit torrent...)
- Copyright Infringement
- Plagiarism
- **Tip: If it doesn't say it is free then it isn't.**
 - You need to get permission from the creator to use it.
- Violence (Games, commercials, websites)

Don't run home



and pull the plug!!!

Safe Surfing

Rules of the Road

- Know
 - Child's SN
 - Friends' SNs and real names
 - What online accounts they have and passwords and usernames for those accounts
- Put the computer in a public area (living room or family room) not in their bedroom.
- Example Rule Lists
 - Kids
 - Parents


Safe Surfing

Private -vs- Personal Information

- Private and Personal Information
 - Never give out private info (anything that can directly identify you or be used to find you)
 - Full name, Phone #, Address, School, School Address, email address, City, Zip Code, Credit Card #, photos in which you can be recognized
 - Only give Personal info to people you know and with parents permission.
 - First Name, Age, likes/dislikes, hobbies
 - Combinations of Personal info can still be used to help find you so be careful!!!



What you can do

- Educate yourself and children about the dangers
 - Practice Safe Surfing with your children
 - Talk to you kids about not giving out Personal Identity Information
 - Education and Trust are key
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What you can do

When talking isn't enough

- Antivirus Software
 - Protect computer from spyware
- Firewall (built in to Windows XP)
 - Block websites you don't want your children to get to
- Parental Controls
 - Built into AOL
 - Google safe search
 - Other companies software Ratings

Sites for more information

Internet Safety Articles & Books

www.netalert.net.au/02530-Downloads.asp - lots of good publications

www.cyberbullying.ca/pdf/Cyberbullying_Information.pdf

www.usccb.org/comm/cyberspace.shtml

Catholic Bishops Article

www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguideee.htm

Books

Taming the Media Monster

Screen Saved: Peril and Promise of Media in Ministry

Both written by Dan Andriacco

Sites for more information

Just For Parents

onguardonline.gov

www.safekids.com

www.cbsnews.org

Search videos for Internet Safety

www.enough.org

www.media-awareness.ca

click on For Parents

Can do a search to find information on Instant Messaging, Chat Rooms, or any other topic

www.microsoft.com/athome/security/children/social_web.aspx

www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstory.cfm?ArticleID=6348

www.cyberangels.org

www.familyguidebook.com/

Sites for more information

For your Family

www.isafe.org

www.netsmartz.org

www.getnetwise.org

www.wiredkids.org

www.komando.com

Cincinnati: WKRC-AM 550, Sundays starting at 3pm-4pm

Dayton: WHIO 1290 AM, Sundays/Saturdays starting at 10am-1pm/7pm-10pm

www.protectkids.com

www.yahooligans.com - safe search engine

www.alfy.com

www.whyville.net - safe social networking

www.imbee.com - safe social networking

www.timeforkids.com

Sites for more information

Special Software

www.monitoringsoftwarereviews.org

Get reviews of different parental monitoring software

www.cyberpatrol.com

kids.getnetwise.org/tools

reviews.cnet.com/2001-3666_7-0.html