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Internet Safety Information For Parents

The Internet is a great tool, with a wealth of information for children to learn, enjoy constructive entertainment, and for personal growth. It is also a great way to communicate with **anyone** having access to online services. While the Internet is basically a great place for children, there are some areas of cyberspace that are not appropriate for them. The Internet has had quite an impact on the sexual exploitation of children, especially in the distribution of sexually exploitive images of children. Many parents are concerned about the risks kids face online, and want to educate themselves along with their children about Internet safety. While there is a lot to learn, there are various great websites that parents can visit, and many that are for parents and children to use together. A few of these websites are listed at the end of this handout.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR BASIC INTERNET SAFETY OF CHILDREN

- Place the computer in a public area of the house, like the kitchen or family room, not in a child's bedroom.
- Make sure to walk past the computer frequently while your child is online.
- Establish clear rules for Internet use by family members. Set rules about where kids can go online and what to do if they stumble upon inappropriate sites.
- Decide whether your children can use the Internet if you are not home. (There is time-limiting software that can be installed to make sure that kids can go online only when you are there.)
- Use the Internet with your kids. Learn how to check the browser history to see where kids have been online. Don't be afraid to talk with them if they have visited restricted or inappropriate sites.
- Learn about the different parental control tools, protective software, and controlled access options that are available. You can do an internet search for detailed information.
- Monitor your child's incoming and outgoing email.
- Restrict, monitor or prevent your child's chat functions or internet newsgroups.
- Teach your kids to never give out personal information online on their social networking sights. Information such as where they go to school, where they live, phone numbers, or other personal information that can be used to identify your child.
- Talk with your child about the dangers of getting together with someone they meet online.
- Instruct your child never to plan a face-to-face meeting with anyone they meet online, and to notify you if they are approached for an offline meeting.
- If you become worried that your child or another child is in danger, don't hesitate to contact the authorities.
- Teach your child to utilize privacy tools which are available on all of the social networking sites.
- Implement safety rules for online video gaming or chatting while online.

Helpful Websites for Parents and Children

www.inobtr.org

www.GetNetWise.org

www.NetSmartz.org

www.SafeKids.com

www.connectsafely.org (safety tips en espanol)

Chat Room/Text Message/Instant Message Abbreviations

This list is for reference only and is not meant to be all inclusive. This can be used as a guide when monitoring your child's on-line and cell phone communication.

AFAIK	as far as I know	MSG	message
AFK	away from keyboard	MUSM	miss you so much
A/S/L	age, sex, location	NP	nosey parents
B4	before	NRN	no reply necessary
B4N	bye for now	OLL	online love
BAK	back at keyboard	P2P	peer to peer
BBL	be back later	P911	my parents are coming
BBM	Blackberry Messenger	PA	parent alert
BF	boyfriend	PAL	parents are listening
BG	big grin	PHAT	pretty hot and tempting
BRB	be right back	PLS	please
BWL	bursting with laughter	PM	private message
CUL/CUL8ER	see you later	PMP	peed my pants
CYA	see ya	POS	parents over shoulder
CYO	see ya online	PPL	people
DIKU	do I know you	PU	that stinks
EOM	end of message	QT	cutie
F2F	face to face	RL	real life
Fb	Facebook	SO	significant other
FC	fingers crossed	SOMY	sick of me yet?
FOMCL	falling off my chair laughing	SUP	what's up
FYI	for your information	TA	thanks again
GAL	get a life	TAFN	that's all for now
GF	girlfriend	TCOB	taking care of business
GOL	giggling out loud	TCOY	take care of yourself'
GR8	great	THX	thanks
H&K	hug and kiss	TLK2UL8R	talk to you later
HAGN	have a good night	TNT	till next time
HW	homework	TOY	thinking of you
IC	I see	TTYL	talk to you later
IDK	I don't know	TU	thank you
ILU	I love you	TXT	text
IM	instant messages	U2	you too
IMing	chatting with someone online	UR	your/you're
IMO	in my opinion	UW	your welcome
JK	just kidding	VBG	very big grin
JW	just wondering	VM	voice mail
LDR	long distance relationship	WB	welcome back
LMIRL	let's meet in real life	W/E	whatever
LTM	laugh to myself	WFM	works for me
LTNS	long time no see	WTH	what the h***
LTR	long term relationship	WTG	way to go
LUV	love	WTGP	want to go private
MMS	text message	WUF	where are you from?
MOSS	member of same sex	YBS	you will be sorry
MOTOS	member of the opposite sex	ZZZ	sleeping