Protecting Kids and Teens Online

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Material Adapted from NetSmartz & Craig E. Hill, Associate Director of Training from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

More than 30 million children use the Internet.

Increases Everyday:

Personal Computers Hand-held devices Cell phones Live- Xbox Wii

74% of kids have Internet access in 3 or more places besides the home.

School

Friend's Home

Public Places

Cell Phone

How Old Are Children Online?

- 23% are nursery school age
- 32% are kindergartners
- 80% are high school students

1 in 3 had an unwanted exposure to a sexually explicit photo

Approximately 1 in 7 received a sexual solicitation online.

1 in 11 was threatened or harassed

1 in 25 received an aggressive sexual solicitation

Signs Of Grooming

- Receiving gifts through the mail, like bus tickets, cell phones, and webcams
- Making calls to unknown numbers
- Turning away from friends and family in favor of spending time online
- Getting upset when he or she can't get online
- And minimizing the screen or turning off the monitor when you come into the room

Most people think that girls are the only victims of predators, but 25% of victims are boys.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D. & Mitchell, K.J. *Internetinitiated* sex crimes against minors. *Journal of* Adolescent Health, 2004

Where Did This Sexual Solicitation Occur?

The computer was located:

- 70% at home
- 22% at someone else's home
- 4% at school
- 3% at the library

The Internet:

- 65% in chat rooms
- 24% in instant messages (AOL, Facebook)

Less than 10% of sexual solicitation and only 3% of unwanted exposure episodes were reported to authorities

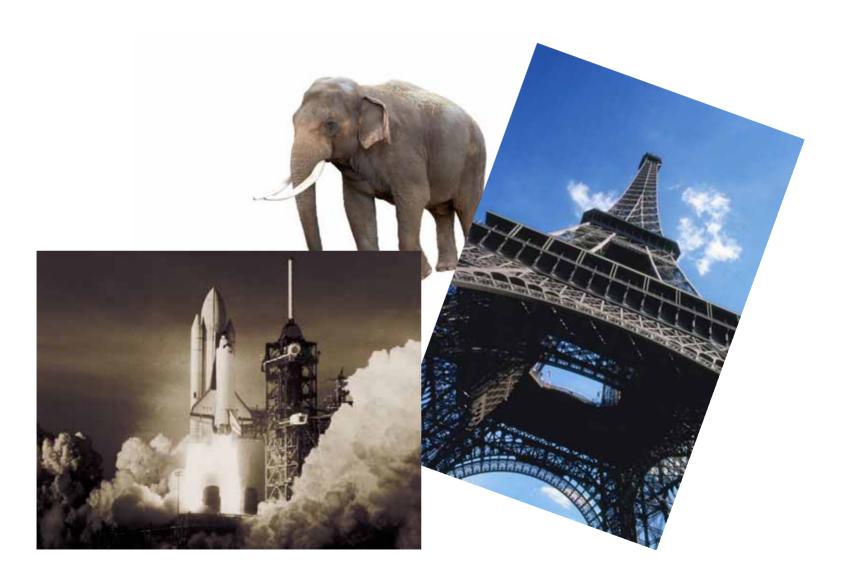
Law-enforcement- Internet Service Provider Hotline

Victim Characteristics

- Sometimes discovering or wondering about their own sexuality.
- Boys rarely report victimization.
- Girls are often "in love" with the offender.
- Looking for attention/affection outside the home
- **UNSUPERVISED** access to the computer

Understanding the Internet And its dangers

The World Wide Web



Websites

Some may ask for:

Names

Address

E-mail address

Personal information

Websites

Kids need to remember....

Never give out information without checking with parents or guardians

E-Mail

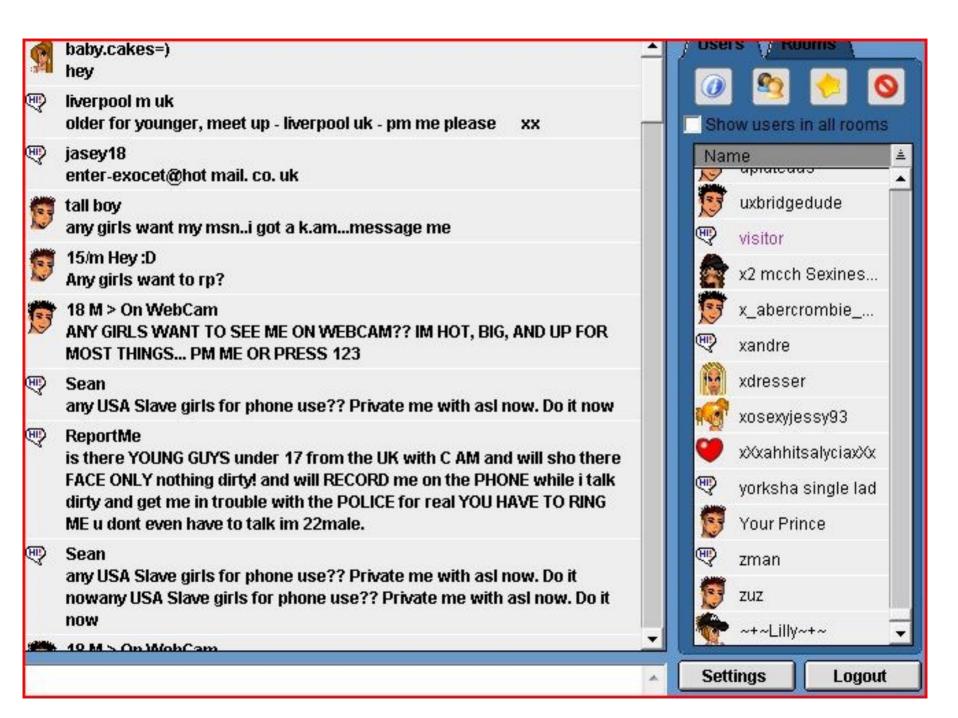
Parents need to remind kids to be careful when replying to E-mail from people they don't know. The sender may not be who he or she seems to be. By replying your child is verifying a valid e-mail address to the sender.

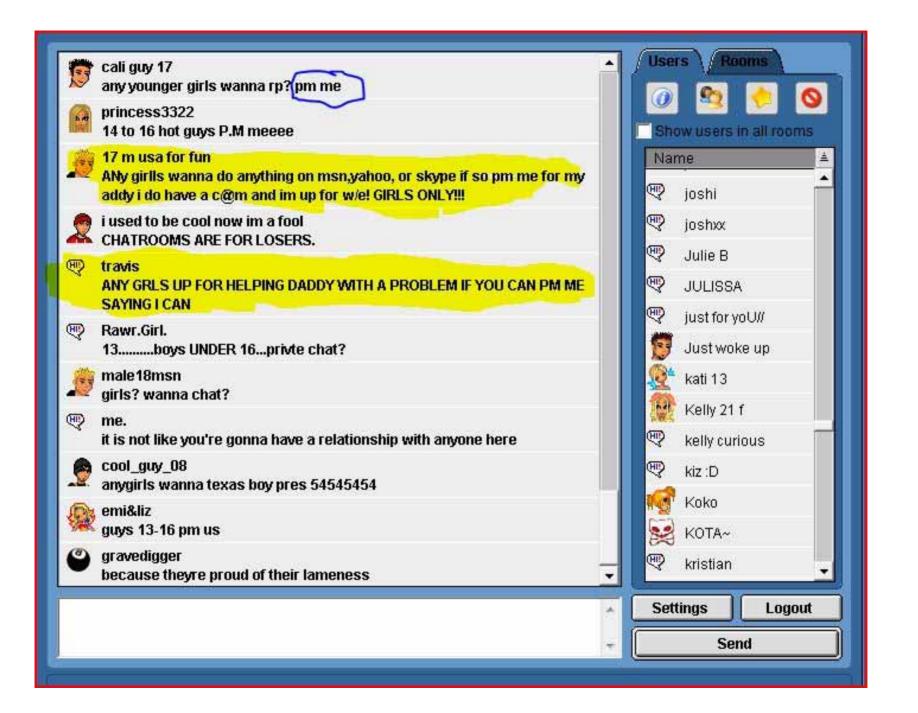
E-Mail

Never send a photograph of yourself or any personal information to someone you don't know.

A chatroom is probably the most dangerous on the Internet

You never know who is in one, so never type anything that makes it easy to track you







A smart way to avoid being tracked is to choose a name that doesn't let people know if you're a guy or a girl.

Kids need to stay away from chatrooms that get into subjects associated with sex or individuals asking questions about sexual activity.

NEVER give out personal information and NEVER arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you first "meet" in a chatroom.

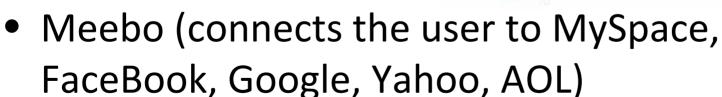
Even if you think you know what you are doing!

Important Fact

Nearly all children molested by Internet sexual predators willingly arrange a meeting.

Instant Messaging

- Google
- Yahoo
- AOL
- FaceBook
- MySpace







Instant Messaging

Remember, the danger is the person you are sending messages to may not be who they say they are.



- Access to the Internet often without parental supervision.
- Share and post digital photos.
- Send and receive text messages.

Same as a computer!

<u>REMEMBER</u>

Most cell phones have both still and video cameras.

SEXTING

An issue of real concern...

SEXTING

Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones.

Some teenagers who have texted photographs of themselves, or of their friends or partners, have been charged with distribution of child pornography, while those who have received the images have been charged with possession of child pornography.

SEXTING

January 29, 2010, 3 boys (age 14) were charged with Class C Felonies in Lacey, Washington for distributing a photo of a nude 14 year old to other people.

The 14 year old girl sent the picture to her 14 year old boyfriend, then they broke up...

TIPS To Prevent Sexting

- Think about the consequences! (Legal, loss of opportunities, etc.)
- Never take images of yourself that you wouldn't want EVERYONE else to see.
- Before hitting send, remember you can't control where that image will travel.

Tips To Prevent Sexting

 If your kid forwards a sexual picture of someone underage

Your kid, is responsible for this image as the original sender. He or she could face child pornography charges.

Tips To Prevent Sexting

Report any nude pictures received

Report it to a trusted adult, do not delete the message, get parents, guardians, teachers, and counselors involved immediately.

Social Networking

For a child sex offender's purposes, social networking sites are the most effective tools ever invented.

Social Networking

Who ELSE uses social networking?

- Colleges
- Universities
- Employers

Protecting Children Online

61% of 13 to 17 year-olds have a personal profile on a site such as MySpace, Friendster, or Xanga.

Half of those also have a picture of themselves online.

Protecting Children Online

Older teens (16-17 years) and girls especially use Internet for social interaction, meeting friends and networking.

Parents Need To Get Involved In Protecting Their Kids Online

Parent Involvement

42% of parents do not review the content of what their teenager(s) read and/or type in chatrooms or via instant messaging.

Parent Involvement

95% of parents/guardians could not identify common chatroom LINGO that teenagers use to warm people they are chatting with that their parents are watching.

POP QUIZ!

- A/S/L? → Age Sex Location?
- P911! → My parents are coming!
- PA → Parent alert
- PAN → Parents are nearby
- PIR → Parent in room
- POS → Parent over shoulder

POP QUIZ!

- LMIRL → Let's meet in real life.

http://www.missingkids.com/adcouncil/pdf/ling o/onlinelingo.pdf

Parent Involvement

- 11 million kids go online daily
- Don't try to prevent your kids from using the internet → Get Educated, get involved!
- Don't be Internet Illiterate!

Online Relationships

Girls ages 14-17 were twice as likely as girls age 10-13 to form close online relationships, making it easy for a predator to meet a teen girl online.

Predator Tactics

- Troll websites, discussion boards, social network sites.
- Video game sites, X-box Live, Wii
- IM, Private chat logs
- E-Mail
- Webcams
- Phone

Predator Tactics

- Predators compile information about targets:
 - Conversation starters: Interests,
 Hobbies, Age, School, Insecurities
 - How to find the child: Last name,
 Hangouts, Routine, License Plates

Predator Tactics

- Gain trust by offering support
- Ask for pictures; sending pictures
- Move to the use of webcams
- Groom with Sexually Explicit Talk,
 Pornography
- Arrange a meeting, or more rarely, stalk the child

Physical Danger

The most serious risk you can face involves the possibility of someone using information posted about a child (or information about where the child goes online) to find them.



View Photos of Alexis (2)

Send Alexis a Message

Poke Alexis

Hey!!!!! I am soooo busy with sports and school. Karate and volleyball has been fun!!!!! My best friends are Alex Alex, Jordan Alex, Able, Hayden, Catriana, Alex #2, Hannah, Lane, Michel, and Callen!!!!! See you spontititi Text me! (Minia)

Information

Birthday:

July 8

Current City:



Mutual Friends



+1 Add as Friend

Wall

Info

Photos



People who aren't friends with Alexis see only some of her profile information. If you know Alexis personally, send her a message or add her as a friend.

About Me

Basic Info

Sex: Female

Birthday:

July 8

Siblings:

Dakota

Interested In:

Men

Looking For: Friendship

Current City: Hometown:

Idaho Idaho

Bio

Hey(: i'm Alexis and I attend the basically friends and family. Thats just a little bit about me. Want to know more? 4257, shoot me a text sometime (:

Education and Work

College

Suggested Rules For Social Networks

- Require permission to open an account : No Secret Accounts!
- Require child to set profile to <u>private</u>: Makes it harder for strangers to access.
- Monitor your child's page for content: The web is not an appropriate of safe place for a diary; No identifying information.
- Monitor your child's "friends" sites.

Physical Danger

The number of teens who are molested, abducted, or leave home as a result of contacts made on the Internet are relatively low, but when it happens, the results can be tragic.

Cyberbullying

- Spreading rumors and gossip
- Posting inappropriate pictures of someone without consent
- Stealing passwords to assume someone else's identity
- Threatening or harassing others with offensive language

Signs Of Cyberbullying

A Victim May:

- Suddenly stops using the computer or cell phone
- Acts nervous when receiving an e-mail, IM, or text
- Seems uneasy about going to school
- Or withdraws from friends and family

Cyberbullying

- Don't Respond
- Save the messages in case you need to report it
- Block or ban the bully
- Set up new accounts
- REPORT

If you feel like your child is in immediate danger, contact your local police.

- Establish rules for the Internet use
 - -What sites can a child visit
 - -Who they can talk to online
 - —How long they can be online

Keep the computer in a common room

COMMUNICATE!

Consider talking openly with your children about the danger of computer sex-offenders.

 Discuss the importance of telling you if something makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused while on-line.

- Be informed: Prepare yourself before hand.
- Ask your kids to show you the places they go online...
- Know other access your child has including text messaging.

- Utilize parent controls by service providers or blocking software. Learn when to use them.
- Be aware of that your child might be using a wireless laptop.
- Be aware they might be using friends computers.

- Check E-mail addresses for appropriateness. (Both theirs and incoming).
- Always read a websites privacy policy and don't sign up for free things.
- Explain to your kids why they shouldn't give out personal information.

- CHECK THEIR CELL PHONES.
- Explain why it is not smart to forward to everyone in the address book.
- Make sure kids only exchange email with people they know and only let them use chat areas you supervise.

- Always maintain access to your child's on-line account.
- Find out the computer safeguards utilized by schools, libraries and friends homes.
- Keep Internet accounts in YOUR name.
- Check buddy lists.
- Know how to check history files.

- NEVER allow children to upload or post pictures of themselves to people they do not know.
- NEVER allow children to have unsupervised access to a webcam.
- NEVER allow children to meet someone in person they have first met on-line.

Helpful Software

- Child-safe search engines, browsers → Parental controls are often free with ISP's (MSN, AOL)
- Filtering and Blocking Software → Blocks inappropriate content, and filters adult content.
- Monitoring software

 records sites visited,
 keystrokes or both (can even notify you what your
 kid is doing via text message to your cell phone!)
 - Kid Defender, Spector Pro 5.0.

Signs A Child May Be At Risk

- <u>Secretive</u> about online activity
- Uses online accounts of others
- <u>Erases</u> internet history or <u>manipulates</u> the settings
- Circumvents parental controls
- Phone calls/IM's from unknown people
- Packages or gifts from unknown people
- Pornography on computer

What Law Enforcement Needs Parents To Do If They Suspect Trouble

- If you <u>suspect</u> or <u>know</u> the following...
 - Your child has received child pornography
 - Your child has received sexually explicit images from an adult
 - Your child has been solicited for sex online
- DO NOT DELETE ANYTHING
- LEAVE THE COMPUTER ON (turn the monitor off if necessary)
- DO NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE PERSON

REPORT IT!!

WWW.CYBERTIPLINE.COM

WWW.NCMEC.ORG