

INTERNET SAFETY



*The Internet is a global, decentralized network of computers taking advantage of common protocols to transfer information. No individual, company or government controls the Internet. When used properly, the internet is an amazing tool for kids and adults to learn and explore. **Unfortunately, trust and intimacy can develop quickly online and predators take advantage of this to build relationships.** You can help protect your children by becoming aware of the risks and being involved in your children's use of the Internet.*

INTERNET RISKS

- Viewing inappropriate material such as photos or stories of explicit sexual content, illegal drugs use or building weapons.
- Promotion of violence against humans, animals or institutions that will desensitize users to the violence.
- Hate and racism may be promoted by coercion, indoctrination and recruitment material. Some sites promote cults, self-mutilation and suicide.
- Exposing user to risks of becoming a victim of sexual exploitation, criminal harassment or to be involved in meeting a stranger.
- Commission of criminal acts by promoting drug manufacturing, sale or possession, by down-loading child pornography or by committing frauds through 'how to' get rich sites.

ADVICE FOR PARENTS

- Keep computers in an **open area** for easy monitoring, not a private area like a bedroom.
- Create **"house rules"** for internet use (ie. time limits)
- **Supervise** the sites they visit.
- Regularly check your computer's Internet History.
- Use filtering software to limit inappropriate access.
- **Strictly monitor** the use of **webcams** and other cameras.
- As children get older, insist on access to their email and messaging accounts.
- Teach your children not to communicate with strangers or open emails from strangers.
- **Use code names.** Teach your children not to give out any personal information without your approval. This includes their full name, age, address and phone number.
- When the children are young, share a **family email account**
- Only allow your children to use **monitored chat rooms** on child friendly sites.
- Talk to your children about their online friends and activities.
- **Tell your children to alert you** if something online makes them feel threatened or uncomfortable.
- Older children should be **spoken to** about online pornography.
- You should be told first if they want to meet an "online friend" and be present at that meeting.
- Enforce proper **"Netiquette"**. Teach **responsible online behaviour**. (no gossiping, bullying or threatening)
- Know what safeguards are in place for computers your children use outside the home, such as the library, school or friends' homes.
- Know your child's on-line friends as you should also get to know all other friend.



YOUR CHILD MAY BE AT RISK IF:

They spend a great deal of time online.

Most children who become victims of an online predator spend a lot of time online, especially in chat rooms.

You find pornographic files on your computer.

Online predators often send pornography to their victims to start sexual discussions. They may also supply it to prove to a child that having sex with children is "normal."

They receive phone calls from people you don't know.

Online predators may try to make contact to engage in "phone sex" or to arrange a meeting. BEWARE, some even have a toll-free 1-800 number so monitor outgoing phone calls as well.

Your child becomes secretive about their online activities.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CHAT Rooms are found on commercial on-line services or websites. Chatting is in real time. Keyboards, telephones and video cameras can be used to send messages. Users can attempt to hide their identity, but profiles and conversation lead to release of personal information. Pedophiles and other perpetrators lurk in CHAT room

Spam: Unsolicited junk e-mail; sometimes known to carry viruses.

Cookie: Information from a Web site sent to and stored on the user's hard drive to be retrieved later by the Web site. The Web server looks for cookies when the user next visits. A cookie can obtain personal information captured previously. Users can configure their browser's to accept, reject or be promoted to accept or reject cookies.

Filtering software: Programs will list Web pages devoted to sex, drugs, racism, violence or other illegal and offensive activities. Users can usually add to the file. Filtering can prevent access to forbidden sites and can alert parents to any attempted access.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CHILD OR TEEN IS SAYING?

asl	age/sex/location	sxy	sexy
nvm	nevermind	jk	just kidding
bf gf	boyfriend girlfriend	tty	talk to you later
omg	oh my god	kk	ok cool
brb	be right back	ty	thank you
pic	picture	lmfao	laugh my f#@ing a@* off
cam/kam	webcam	ud	you would
plz	please	lol	laugh out loud
g2g/gtg	got to go	ur	you are
ppl	people	noob	new individual
h/o	hang on	wtf	what the f#@k
pos	parent over shoulder		

If your child receives sexually explicit images online or if they are solicited sexually, contact the police. You can also report it to the Cybertip Hotline at <http://www.cybertip.ca>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT OR OTHER CRIME PREVENTION TOPICS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.HAMILTONPOLICE.ON.CA OR PLEASE CONTACT:

HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE – CRIME PREVENTION

155 King William Street, Hamilton, Ontario Phone: 905-546-4900 Fax: 905-546-4720