Additional Resources

NetSmartz at www.netsmartz.org

NetSmartz Kids, designed for children aged 5 to 8 featuring interactive characters Clicky, Nettie and Webster.

NS Teens, a web site designed for teens and “tweens” (children ages 8 to 13) by Internet safety experts at NCMC’s NetSmartz Workshop, features comic-book-style characters who model safer online practices. It addresses issues such as social networking and cyberbullying.

Parents’ and guardians’ online resource for expert answers to questions about Internet safety, computers, and the Web. Learn more at www.NetSmartz411.org.

iKeepSafe.org uses an animatec mascot named Faux Paw the Techno Cat to teach children the importance of protecting personal information and avoiding inappropriate places on the Internet. The Internet Keep Safe Coalition is a non-profit organization founded by Jacalyn Leavitt, former First Lady of Utah 1993-2003 and founder of iKeepSafe.

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www.GetNetWise.org is a public service sponsored site by the Internet Industry corporations and public interest organizations to help ensure that Internet users have safe, constructive and educational or entertaining online experiences.

INOBTR.org (I Know Better) works with experts in law enforcement, child services, education and more to help define the risks children face online. It also provides guidance on how to handle these situations.

The Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s School Safety Center at: www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/ provides guidance, technical assistance and resources relative to keeping students and staff safe in our schools.


Project Safe Childhood (PSC) is a nationwide Department of Justice initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Learn more at www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

What should I do if...

- Someone in my home receives an e-mail or file that contains pornographic images of children?
- My child has been sexually solicited by someone who knows that my child is younger than 18?
- My child has received sexually explicit messages from someone who knows my child is younger than 18?
- In all instances, do not attempt to copy or forward any of the images or messages on your computer. Immediately turn the computer off to preserve evidence and call:
  - Spokane Police Department (509) 625-4244
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation (509) 747-5195
  - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (800) 973-2867

Task Force Partners

The Washington Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional task force comprised of various federal law enforcement agencies, local police departments, sheriff’s offices and state agencies.

Task Force Affiliate

Educational Service District 101
The Net
The Internet is a wonderful resource for children. It can be used for education and recreation, allowing them to explore new interests, keep up with their favorite hobbies, and communicate with friends. However, going online can also be dangerous, and it is important that you learn as much as you can to protect your child from harmful material and ensure his or her personal safety.

What Kids Encounter Online
A survey regarding Internet use among youth revealed in one year:
- 13% of the youth had received an unwanted sexual solicitation or approach.
- 81% of those propositioned were 14 or older.
- 70% of those reporting a sexual advance were female and 30% male.
- 37% occurred while in a chat room; 40% came through an instant message program.
- 79% of incidents happened at home.
- 31% of the solicitations were aggressive in meaning the perpetrators made, or attempted, offline contact with youth. In aggressive solicitation incidents: 75% asked to meet the youth in person; 34% called youth on the telephone; 18% came to youths’ homes; 12% gave youth money, gifts; 9% of the youth received mail and in 3 the youth received a travel ticket.
- 34% of the youth surveyed had at least one unwanted exposure to sexual pictures.


Chat Rooms
Communication with one or more users via text. Chat rooms pose the biggest risk to teens. Several people can be in a chat room at once. You can never know who is in a chat room, or if someone is really who he or she claims to be. Anything you type in a chat room can be seen by everyone who is using that chat room, so be careful what you type and never give out personal information.

Instant Messaging (IM)
Instant Messaging is a private messaging option in which two individuals can communicate in real time. IM is available through most email accounts, social networking sites and online games like XBOX. IM should be reserved for individuals that parents know in real life.

Social Networking
Websites providing various ways for users to interact such as chat, messaging, email, video, voice, voice chat, file sharing, blogging, etc. Some popular sites include MySpace, Facebook and dozens more. Many children and teens are not aware that they are putting themselves in danger by giving out too much personal information and communicating with people they have only met online.

Peer-to-Peer File Sharing
Peer-to-peer (P2P) is a type of network that allows users to connect with each other and directly access files from one another’s hard drives. Some of these programs include LimeWire, BearShare and Kazaa. Use of these networks could allow access to unlimited amounts of illegal or pornographic material, lead to copyright violations and theft of information from your computer.

What Parents Can Do
- Talk with your child about online dangers, including sexual victimization.
- Spend time online with your child exploring positive sites and teaching responsible use of the Internet.
- Set limits with your child, determining when and how long to surf the Internet.
- Protect your password, which should be required to go online, and enter it for your child each time the Internet is used.
- Station computers with Internet access in the family areas of your residence – not in your child’s bedroom.
- Utilize blocking software or filtering services offered by many Internet Service Providers.
- Always maintain access to your child’s online account and randomly check his/her e-mail and Web browser history.
- Never give a child your credit card number; enter the number for your child if he or she is making an online purchase.
- Find out what computer safeguards are utilized by your child’s school, public library, and at the homes of your child’s friends – all places where your child could encounter an online predator.

Monitoring Your Child’s Internet Activities

Reviewing Internet History
You can find Web sites recently viewed on your computer by using the “History” button available on your Internet browser.

Reviewing Temporary Internet Files
When a user accesses a Web site, a temporary file containing the site address and any accompanying images is stored on the computer’s hard drive. You can review those sites and images by clicking on Tools in your Internet browser then clicking on Internet Options.

Under the General tab there will be a section on Temporary Internet Files. By clicking on Settings in that section, you can then choose to view the files or make other changes to the folder. Files containing an image will typically have a .gif or .jpg file extension.

* This is for IE 5.0 and higher on a computer running Windows. For older versions of IE, click on the View menu and then click on Internet Options. For Firefox or Safari on a Mac, look under the History menu then click on Show All History.