


**“Think Before You Click”
Keeping Your Child Safe on the
Internet**

Jill Manczka – Director of Communications, Midwestern
Intermediate Unit IV


724-458-6700 ext. 1255
Jill.manczka@miu4.org

Do You Speak Cyber?



Discussion

- How many answered 100% of the questions correctly?
- What do the scores of this quiz tell you?
- What do you need to know? How can we monitor our kids online and keep them safe?



Note about Presentation

- This presentation is not recommending that you forbid your child to use the Internet or social media.
- We, as educators, believe that technology is one of the most powerful tools for student learning.
- Goal – to raise awareness and to encourage monitoring of children while on-line.

Statistics on Children's Use of the Internet & Technology

- 82% of American homes with children ages 2-18 have a computer with a high speed internet connection
- 96% of American children ages 2-18 go online each day
- One in four children ages 4-14 have their own gaming consol (i.e. Nintendo DS). These children spend an average of 25 minutes per day gaming on this consol.
- 71% of school aged students say that they consider their virtual world and virtual socializing to be extremely important to them. (Virtual World = AIM, chat rooms, Elf Island, Neo-pets, Second Life, Webkinz, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter etc.)

Statistics on Children's Use of the Online Technology

- 11% of 9-16 year olds have encountered sexual images online in the past 12 months
- 93% of 5 to 15 year olds used the Internet in 2013.
- The estimated weekly volume of Internet use for 3-4 year olds is 6.5 hours,
- The estimated weekly volume of Internet use for 5-7 year olds is 6.7 hours
- The estimated weekly volume of Internet use for 8-11 year olds is 9.2 hours,

(Source: Ofcom, 2013)

Statistics on Children's Use of the Online Technology

- The estimated weekly volume of Internet use for 12-15 year olds is 17 hours
- In 2013, children spent the same amount of time online as they did watching television.
- 35% of children ages 5-15 have an active social media account

Question for Participants.....

- What types of technology do children use?

Advantages of Internet Usage for Children

- Instant access to information for school related projects and academics
- Instant access to valuable tools for daily living
- Instant access to grades, teachers, parents, friends, relatives, current events, and other resources
- Instant communication for academic collaboration with peers
- Continual means of socializing with peers

What are the risks for our kids....

- On-Line Predators
- Cyber bullying
- Inappropriate materials
- Lack of adult knowledge of on-line behaviors and technology. This prevents good adult monitoring of children on-line.



On-Line Predators

- Predators often enter child and teen chat rooms or social networking sites and pursue young children.
- They often lie about their identity and build a relationship with a child on-line and then ask to meet them in person in order to kidnap or hurt the child.
- Sometimes they do not lie about their identity and do the same as above.

Who Are On-Line Predators and What Do They Do?

- They exchange inappropriate sexual photos, videos with children. Often send pornographic images to children.
- They view blogs and social networking sites (Facebook, Myspace) to find children and information about where they are, who they are with, and when is the best time to find them.
- People from all walks of life have been arrested for such acts. However, most predators are males in search of children of all ages.

What Are the Consequences?

- Children have been kidnapped, hurt, raped, and murdered by on-line predators.
- PA Attorney General's Office has Internet Child Predator Unit that monitors web pages each day. They catch and prosecute several predators in a given year.

What Is Cyber Bullying?



Definition: Sending or posting harmful or cruel words, videos, or pictures on the Internet, in a text message, or any other form of digital media. (Peer to peer). Unlike school yard bullying, cyber bullying has potential to happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How Do Kids Cyber Bully?

- Send e-mails or texts that are cruel, defaming, mean
- Post pictures or videos of others that are mean or cruel
- Post cruel items on blogs or social networking site, posting pictures with derogatory captions or comments
- Create on-line polls about who is "cool" or not, "hot" or not, and ranking of student popularity or sexual behavior.
- Use someone else's e-mail address or cell phone to send incriminating or vicious information to others
- Rank/rate friendships and relationships on-line.
- Harassing others with instant messages
- "Sexting"

How Do Kids Cyber Bully?

- Send pornographic images or spam to others
- Blog about other children or adults
- Creating web pages intended to tease other children
- Stealing passwords in order to impersonate other children to cause harm or trouble
- Post videos of peers without permission causing shame or embarrassment to other children or adults

What are the Consequences for victims of cyber bullying?

- Children feel isolated
- Reputations are damaged
- Refuse to attend school due to the bullying
- Because cyber bullying has potential to happen 24 hours per day, victims never get a break from the cruelty.
- Students have even taken their own lives as a result from the on-line bullying

Is your child a cyber bully?

Kids may be cyber bullying and not even know it. A self assessment may help them to become aware.

Handout
