




Bogeymen, Monsters & Creeps: How To Help Your Kids Stay Safe Online



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What You'll Learn Tonight



- ✓ Three Primary "Threat Vectors"
- ✓ Five things you must do as a parent in the digital age
- ✓ Websites with further resources



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Threat Vector #1: Oversharing



- 72% of teens have a social networking profile and nearly half (47%) have a public profile viewable by anyone. (Cox Communications Teen Online and Wireless Safety Survey)
- 26% of teens know someone who something bad has happened to because of information or photos posted online. (Cox Communications Teen Online and Wireless Safety Survey)
- One out of five teens reported that they have electronically sent or posted online, nude or seminude pictures or videos of themselves (Council on Communications & Media, 2011)



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Threat Vector #2: Online Predators



According to a 2010 study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health:

- In 82% of online sex crimes against minors, the offender used the victim's social networking site to gain information about the victim's likes and dislikes.
- 65% of online sex offenders used the victim's social networking site to gain home and school information about the victim.
- 26% of online sex offenders used the victim's social networking site to gain information about the victim's whereabouts at a specific time.



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Threat Vector #2: Online Predators, continued



According to a 2010 study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health:

- 14 percent of students in 10th-12th grade have accepted an invitation to meet an online stranger in-person and 14 percent of students, have invited an online stranger to meet them in-person.
- Nine percent of children in 7th-9th grade have accepted an online invitation to meet someone in-person and 10 percent have asked someone online to meet them in-person.



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Threat Vector #3: Cyberbullying



According to the Pew Internet and American Life Survey in 2011:

- 95% of social media-using teens who have witnessed cruel behavior on social networking sites say they have seen others ignoring the mean behavior; 55% witness this frequently
- Only 7% of U.S. parents are worried about cyberbullying, even though 33% of teenagers have been victims of cyberbullying
- 66% of teens who have witnessed online cruelty have also witnessed others joining in; 21% say they have also joined in the harassment



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5 Things You Must Do As A Parent in the Digital Age



1. Educate yourself – know how to use privacy settings and parental controls
2. Start young – talk your kids about safety – not just “stranger danger” but also how to handle online bullying
3. Set clear rules and expectations - keep computer in plain view, have access
4. Be their parent - AND their Facebook “friend”
5. Most important thing is that they know that they can come to you



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Teach your child to:



- Use privacy settings
- Think before they post/text
- Avoid in-person meetings
- Be honest about their age
- Remember social networking sites are public spaces
- Avoid posting anything that could embarrass them later or expose them to danger
- Remember that people aren’t always who they say they are



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Online Safety Resources



- NetSmartz.org
- WiredSafety.org
- SafeKids.com



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What You Will Learn Next Time...



I will share specific strategies with you:

- Rules & tools you can use
- How to create a “safe surfing” contract with your child
- Online games that teach kids about internet safety in a fun, engaging way



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