



The Internet and Your Child

Village School Parent Education Evening
November 4, 2005



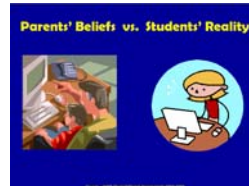
Children and the Internet

- **25%** of 5-year-olds use the Internet alone.
- In 2004, more children used the Internet than adults.
- **44%** of children have felt sexually harassed on the Internet.
- **28%** of minors visit pornographic web pages.
- **50%** of children use the Internet alone.
Source: Panda Software

- Secrets to Success:
 - Communicate
 - Educate
 - Moderate

- **76%** of children ages 6-12 report that an adult is nearby all or most of the time that they go online.
- Only **36%** of teenagers report the same.
Source: CPB Report on Children's Internet Use

- Involved Parents = Safer Children



Parents' Beliefs vs. Students' Reality

Parents' Beliefs:

- **87%** stated that they had established rules for their child's Internet use.
- **90%** feel they have a good idea of what their child does while online.
- **54%** feel limited in monitoring & sheltering their child from inappropriate material on the Internet.
- **69%** feel they know a lot about what their kids do on the Internet.

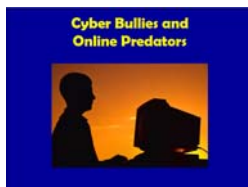
Students' Reality:

- **Only 64%** stated that they have established rules for their Internet use.
- **Only 59%** said they share what they do on the Internet with their parents.
- **53%** stated that they would prefer to be alone when surfing the Internet.
- **29%** say their parents would disapprove if they knew what they were doing on the Internet.
- **14%** of students polled stated that their parents have no idea where they go or what they do on the Internet.



Online Communities

- Instant Messaging (IM)
 - Need a dictionary? You must be a newbie
 - : - .) Cindy Crawford
 - Chat Rooms
 - Data confirms what other studies show—that middle school children—are the most attracted to chat rooms.
 - Before they are 16 years old, the Internet gives them a license to drive
 - Peer to Peer Networks
 - Weblogs or Blogs
 - Online diaries
 - Educational purposes
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Cyber Bullies and Online Predators

- **52%** said hurtful or angry things to another person.
 - **57%** had someone say hurtful or angry things to them
 - **42%** were bullied
Source: i-SAFE survey 2004-2005
 - It is important to be aware of who children are talking to online and how they have met them.
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The Grooming Process

1st Stage - ***Appears Familiar***

- Predator is non-threatening, friendly, comforting, and familiar.
- Predator disguises their true identity and motive for the relationship.
- Predator systematically pretends to have common interests with the victim.
- Predator uses information gathered from profile and chat room conversations

2nd Stage - ***Develops Trust***

- Predator always supports child's point-of-view regarding conflicts.
- Predator systematically exploits family, school and/or social friction.
- Predator fosters the illusion that they are the only person who understands child.
- Predator & child communication regularly in public chat rooms – become "buddies."

3rd Stage - ***Establishes Secrecy***

- Predator acquires child's personal Internet addresses and phone numbers.
- Child is convinced that their parents won't understand their "special" relationship.
- Predator and child use secret e-mail accounts to communicate stronger messages.

4th Stage - ***Erodes Barriers***

- Child begins believing they are prepared for adult experiences.
- Predator exploits child's natural curiosity to erode personal ethical barriers.
- Child's protective inhibitions are desensitized by obscene photos and language.



Parent Tips

Have fun being part of your child's online experience.

- Learn from your children: Ask them to teach you how to get into a chat room or "blog"
- Have them show you their favorite online destinations
- Check and use e-mail with some regularity (all Village School teachers have e-mail!)
- Know the services your child uses. Have them show you how to logon.

Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children.

- Discuss these rules and post them near the computer as a reminder.
- Monitor their compliance with these rules.

Respect your child's privacy but make certain they know personally everyone on their "buddy" list. No Strangers Allowed!

- Chat room "friends" are not always who they say they are.
- Someone indicating that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could in reality be a 40-year-old man.

Keep the computer where everyone sees the screen. No Hidden Screens!

- Never allow a computer with internet access in your child's bedroom

Keep personal information private. No Personal Posting!

- Your name
- Age
- Phone number
- Address
- Friends' or family names
- Your school name
- Any information that tells who you are or where you can be found (including pictures)
Make usernames generic and anonymous

Report strangers who solicit meetings with any child.

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 1-800-843-5678
- Teach your child how to recognize & avoid predators.
- Responsible adults do not pursue relationships with minors.

Children should:

- Be good cyber citizens
- Know how to exit an inappropriate website
- Remember that not everything you read online may be true.