

cyber safety



Computers and the Internet have revolutionized the way we live. But along with this great progress, comes new dangers and responsibilities. One in five children will be solicited online this year. As parents, we must do everything we can to prevent our children from being victimized by this new breed of child predator.

Thank you for your commitment to your children and to the future of Texas.

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

- Keep the computer in a common room of the house.
- Speak openly about safety issues. Children will be less likely to come to you if the issue is enshrouded in secrecy. If they feel that you are comfortable discussing the subject matter, they may be more forthcoming to you.
- Get involved. Tell your children to show you the sites they like to visit online. Keep their passwords readily accessible and access your child's account regularly.
- Set clear rules restricting children from displaying their name, address, telephone number, pictures and other personal information online.
- Tell your children they are never to agree to get together with someone they "meet" online. Warn them of the dangers of such meetings and tell them to alert you if someone approaches them about setting up a face-to-face meeting.

Internet Safety Tips for Teens

- Don't give out personal information about yourself, including where you go to school, your address, or your telephone number.
- Report unwanted solicitations to your parents or a trusted adult.
- If you become aware of the sharing, use, or viewing of child pornography online, **immediately report this to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** at 1-800-843-5678 or online at www.cybertipline.com.
- Don't believe everything you read in chatrooms. Remember, a person who says they're a 14-year-old girl from Texas may really be a 42-year-old man from your hometown.
- If someone harasses you online, says anything inappropriate, or does anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult and contact your Internet service provider.
- A "friend" you meet online may not be the best person to talk to if you are having problems at home, with your friends, or at school.

Teen Chat Lingo

121 one to one

A/S/L? age, sex, location

BBL be back later

BF boyfriend

BRB be right back

CUL or **CUL8ER** see you later

CYO see you online

F2F face to face

GF girlfriend

H&K hug and kiss

ILU I love you

IM instant message

IPN I'm posting naked

IRL in real life

IWALU I will always love you

KOL kiss on lips

LDR long distance relationship

LMIRL let's meet in real life

LOL laughing out loud

LTNS long time, no see

LUWAMH love you with all
my heart

M/F male or female

MOSS member of same sex

MOTOS member of the
opposite sex

MSG message

NIFOC naked in front
of computer

NP nosy parents

OLL online love

P2P peer to peer

P911 my parents are coming!

PA parent alert

PAL parents are listening

PANB parents are nearby

PDA public display of affection

PM private message

POS parent over shoulder

RL real life

ROTFL rolling on the
floor laughing

RPG role playing games

SO significant other

TAW teachers are watching

TMI too much information

TOY thinking of you

W/E whatever

WTGP want to go private?

WUF where are you from?

Blog A frequent Web listing of personal thoughts and Web links. A blog is much like an online diary which includes what is happening in a person's life. Blogs are also called web logs or weblogs.

Chat Real-time communication over the Internet. You type and send messages that appear almost instantly on the computer monitors of the other people who are participating in the chat.

Chatroom An interactive forum where you can talk in real-time. The chatroom is the place or location online where the chat is taking place.

Cyberspace Refers to all the computer networks on the Internet. The term distinguishes the physical world from the virtual or computer-based world.

Cyberstalking/Harassment Terms that can refer to the online enticement of children; rude or threatening messages; slanderous information; or repeated, unwanted messages.

Download Putting information on your computer. You can download information from the Internet, discs or CDs, and other computers.

E-Mail (electronic mail) A service that allows people to send messages with pictures and sounds from their computer to any other computer in the world.

Emoticons Animated faces that express different emotions you can send in E-mails, chat, and Instant Messaging. Emoticons are a way to show someone online how you are feeling.

History A list of web sites the people using a particular computer have visited. Viewing the history can be used to monitor what sites your children have visited.

Instant Messaging (IM) A service that allows people to send and receive messages almost instantly.

Internet A network of millions of computers from all over the world. The Internet allows computers to trade information using telephone lines, fiber-optic cables, and satellite links. It is also referred to as the "Net."

Leet Speak The corruption or modification of written text. This form of communication uses inverted numbers and letters. For more about leet speak visit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leet>

Monitoring Software Software products that allow parents to monitor or track the web sites or E-mail messages that a child visits or reads.

Online Solicitation Receiving unwanted sexual advances from someone communicating with you over the Internet.

Podcast An audio show that is broadcast over the web. Users can listen to these shows on a digital music player or a computer. Podcasts can include talk shows, music, or other types of audio.

Post To leave a message on a newsgroup or bulletin board.

Trusted Adult Someone who will help protect you and make you safer. Trusted adults can be people like family members, caregivers, family friends, teachers, counselors, coaches, clergy members, youth leaders, and law-enforcement officers.

**To report unwanted online solicitations,
contact the National Cyber Tipline at 1 (800) 843-5678.**