

OPERATION SAFE SURF

Online Predators: Facts You Need to Know.

Remember: The Internet is a public place where children are not alone ... and you're not there to protect them.

- 1 in 5 kids ages 10 to 17 have been sexually solicited online
- 89% of sexual solicitations of kids were made in chat rooms or instant messages
- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood
- 89% (13 million kids) use instant messaging while only 18% of adults do
- 11 is the average age for exposure to pornography on the web

Source: Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General

Internet for Parents 101: "SHOW ME"

Parents need to know:

- ✓ how the Internet works,
- ✓ when and where your children are using it, and
- ✓ how to ask the right questions.

In today's society, our children are quite computer "savvy." The best defense is keeping the line of communication open with your child. There may be no better teacher than your child when it comes to surfing the web, so ask them to teach you!

- ✓ Ask your child to "show you" favorite web sites, chat rooms or web sites of interest.
- ✓ If your child has a face book page, ask them to show you how to create a face book page of your own. Ask them to approve you as a "friend" so you have access to what is posted
- ✓ Have your child explain web terms i.e. twitter, goggle, common abbreviations often used (lol)
- ✓ Tell your child that it is important that parents establish guidelines for computer use.
Computers should be used in open areas of the home. If located in a bedroom, the door should be kept open whenever the computer is in use. Parents should be able to look over their child's shoulder at any time while they are on line and check the "history" of web sites visited.

After viewing this video, please reinforce the message that on the Internet people sometimes lie about who they really are. Within minutes, these people can easily find out where you live and where you go to school. Also, tell your child to help protect their friends from these people by telling you if a friend or fellow classmate who is in contact with any unknown person.

