INTERNET SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

There are so many good reasons to be online! However, dangers do exist. Here are some simple guidelines for helping our kids stay safe online.

Guidelines for Parents:

- Awareness: Stay informed of online crime trends, dangerous apps, online predator behavior, and safety tips
- Monitor what your kids are doing online, what apps they are using, and who they are talking with
- Make a family internet safety plan where everyone is a part of the conversation! Everyone has ownership and wants to stay safe. A conversation with a message about their value and that our goal is their protection.
  "Our mind understands the rules, but in the heart we understand our value"
- Know the passwords
- Talk about what predator and bullying behavior may look like and to tell a trusted adult immediately if they see it
- Keep open communication
- Keep up a high standard of love, quality time, and acceptance at home – predator's prey on emotional need!
- Encourage kids to tell if someone or something they see makes them feel sad, scared, or embarrassed. Let them know seeing an inappropriate image they did not intend to see is never their fault.

Internet Safety Tools:

- Set up parental controls, safety filters, and software on devices and in apps
- Set time limits for wifi and online activities
- Internet use in common areas of the home, not private rooms or bedrooms
- Disable or "ghost" mode GPS location in apps and games

Be Aware:

Predators are on games and apps that are popular with children and teens, often posing as peers, to go undetected and gain access to kids. Sites, games, and apps rated ok for kids are NOT filtered by software and parental controls. Pop up ads are often used by pornography sites to target market kids in games. Predators, traffickers and others with bad intentions use:

- Instant messaging and video chat capability in apps and games
- Fake Profiles - Are they who they say they are?
- Animae child pornography - just because it is animated, does not mean it is ok for kids

Educational Resources for Families:

- Netsmartz.org
- Fbi.gov/resources/parents
- Missingkids.org (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)
- A.C.T. United Facebook Page and You Tube Channel @ACT United

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