



### Talking to Your Kids about Internet Safety

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### Topics to be addressed:

- Youth online culture
- Reasons for Internet use
- Basic safety guidelines
- Monitoring computer use
- Dangers online

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### Generation “M” Kids



- Cell phones
- Texting
- iPods / iPads
- Facebook, Twitter and other social media
- Chat rooms
- Digital cameras
- Games
- Online shopping

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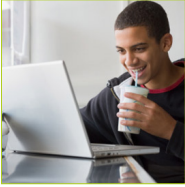
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### Your kids online:

31 million teens - 93% of youth ages 12-17 are online.

- 89% send or read e-mails
- 84% search the Web for fun
- 81% play online games
- 75% use instant messaging (texting)
- 43% purchase items online



Pew Internet & American Life Project, *Teens and Technology: Youth are leading the transition to a fully wired and mobile nation*, July 2011

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### Positive Benefits for Your Child:

- Keep in touch with teachers, family, friends
- Get help with homework
- Obtain up-to-the-minute information
- Establish mentoring relationships
- Practice writing
- Receive online newsletters
- Make world-wide pen pals



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### More Benefits for Your Child:

- Access rich educational and cultural resources (text, sounds, pictures, and video) otherwise unavailable
- Improve ability to understand and evaluate information
- Stay informed by accessing community and school Web sites
- Play fun and educational games
- Learn educational skills useful in future jobs



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## Safety Guidelines for kids



- View the information sent out like a post-card that everyone can see
- Limit where your children post personal information
- Check photos for anything that shares personal information
- Don't agree to meet anyone in person
- Use precautions in purchasing anything on-line or when giving out e-mail addresses

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## Dangers/Risks:



- Marketing that deceptively collects personal information from kids in order to sell products to them or their parents
- Requests for personal information for contests, surveys, etc., that are used in unauthorized ways
- Easy access to games with excessive violence and gender stereotypes
- Easy-to-find sites with sexually explicit images and text
- Easy-to-find sites promoting hatred, bigotry, violence, drugs, cults, and other things not appropriate for children
- Inaccurate, misleading, and untrue information

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## Cyber Bullying



What is it?

- Repeated harassment of a person through electronic mediums
  - email, text messaging or social network sites such as Facebook, Twitter and others.
- Often more severe than traditional bullying because the bully is able to hide behind the electronic device and remain virtually anonymous.

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## Types of Cyber Bullying

- Harassing Texts
- Malicious Facebook posts
- Photo shopped Images
- Impersonation
- Exclusion



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## STOP cyberbullying Tips for Students

- Tell a trusted adult about the bullying and keep telling until you find someone who takes action.
- Don't open or read messages from cyber bullies.
- Tell a teacher or administrator at your school if this is school related.
- Don't erase the messages – they may be needed to take action.
- Protect yourself: never agree to meet anyone you meet online.
- If you are threatened with harm, inform the local police.

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## Tips for Parents

- Place in a well- viewed area
- Set up privacy passwords, safety modes and filtering tools
- Provide opportunities for other activities
- Clear simple rules regarding online behavior
- Discuss appropriate responses to offensive material



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## What Parental Controls can do:

- Block access to materials (text and pictures) identified as inappropriate for kids\*
- Allow you to specify what types of materials are appropriate for your child
- Help you monitor your child's activity on the Internet by storing names of sites and/or snapshots of material seen by your child on the computer for you to view later
- Allow you to set different restrictions for each family member
- Enforce time limits set by parents

\* Each control tool determines whether materials are "inappropriate" or "safe for kids" differently. Make sure you ask what criteria the tool uses and how the evaluation process works; then check out the tool

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## Let information work to your advantage:

- Ask to see photos and descriptions of friends
- Teach research skills
- Use technological tools to connect with teens
- Monitor history for conversation ice-breakers
- Let children show you what they can do online, and visit their favorite sites.



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## Reporting unsafe behavior:



- Talk to children about not responding to offensive or dangerous messages.
- Report any such communication to local law enforcement.
- Do not delete the offensive or dangerous e-mail.

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**In Summary...**

- Discuss expectations before purchasing equipment and services
- Be aware of usage in other locations
- Set boundaries on all technological devices
- Restrict technology time as an appropriate consequence
- Be a role model

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**For Additional Assistance:**

- Sign Safety contracts
- Use parental online resources and books
- Participate in community and school-based educational programs
- Contact your EAP:

*Alliance Work Partners*  
*Toll Free: 800-343-3822*  
*EAP Teen Line: 800-334-TEEN (8336)*  
*www.alliancewp.com*

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