

Today's Youth... In a Wired World

- All victims of online predators met the predator willingly, they thought they were meeting a friend.
- 1 in 8 (12%) of youths under 17 discovered that someone they were communicating with online was an adult pretending to be much younger.
- 1 in 3 (34%) of teens communicate through the Internet with someone they have not met in person.
- 1 in 3 (33%) of youths have talked about meeting someone in person that they have already met on the Internet.
- 1 in 6 (16%) of teens online have received e-mail or instant messages from a perfect stranger.
- 63% of the teens responded
- 24 % of teens saw nothing wrong in chatting with a stranger on the Internet and 39% trusted those with whom they chatted
- 10% met someone from the Internet face-to-face, 4% more than once.

Cyber Tip Line:

<http://www.cybertipline.com/>

Myths

Myth 1: What I write or post online is private.

Nothing online is private! Not only is it not private but it can be found in cyber space forever.

Myth 2: I can't be held accountable for what I say or do online.

- Employers and colleges use blogs and websites for insight into applicants.
- Schools can suspend students under certain circumstances.
- Students can lose the rights to participate in other school activities and clubs.

Myth 3: I can write or post whatever I want about other people.

- Writing rude or offensive remarks about other people is considered cyber bullying.
- Posting Offensive materials is also considered cyber bullying.

Sources:

Cyber Bullying: 'Demystifying and Deescalating Cyber Bullying'
Powerpoint by Barbara Trolley, Ph.D. CRC

Connie Hanel, M.S.E.d & Linda Shields, M.S.E.d.

i-Safe - <http://isafe.org/>

Net Smartz - <http://netsmartz.org/>

Stay Safe - <http://www.staysafe.org/teens/411/index.html>

Wired Safety - <http://www.wiredsafety.org/>

Federal Bureau of Investigations - <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children - <http://www.missingkids.com/>

More information is available online at:

http://www.rockfordschools.org/rfc/library/internet_safety.htm

Rockford Public
Schools

Internet Safety



Rockford Freshman Center

Kimberly Blunt
Media Specialist

Online Risks

Be Smart!

Predators:

Use a grooming process to establish a private relationship with their victims.

- Friendly and understanding
- Establish a common interest with the target
- Obtain personal information – name, school, where they live, phone number, only child
- Discover target’s weaknesses – mad at family, feel left out, parents divorced...
- Discover “perceived” strengths
- Adventurous, curious, can they keep a secret?, how independent or spontaneous
- Discover goals – want to be on TV, travel, run away...

Predators escalate the relationship by:

- Convincing the teen that only they understand
- That they love and care for them
- That they are more dependable than family and friends
- Forming a “Trust-Bridge” as “soul mates”
- Make phone calls to “talk more”

Warning Signs! Predators:

- Avoid making arrangements online (so they can’t be tracked.)
- Tell their target how to remove information from their computer to “ensure they are special”
- **Convince victims that no one else needs to know!**
- **No one else would understand!**

Cyber Bullying Is:



- Posting or sending mean or harmful material
- Posting or sending threats
- Posting gossip or rumors
- Creating a negative polling site
- Stealing passwords/setting up accounts under someone else’s identity
- Can be done intentionally or inadvertently – same emotional effect on victim either way

Consequences vary depending on severity and how often it has happened.

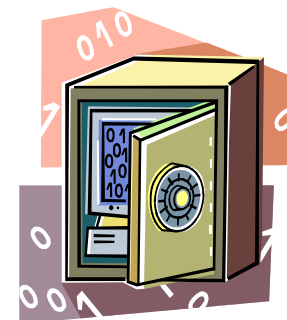
Can lead to detentions or expulsions at school

Some forms can be considered a misdemeanor by law enforcement or if there is threat to a person’s personal safety bullying can become a felony.

What can you do if you are being bullied online:

- Don’t respond, don’t open or read messages that you know are from cyber bullies
- Talk to your parents or guardians
- Change your e-mail or IM address
- Block the bully from your site, e-mail or IM
- Save the messages, log the dates and times, save the profile of the bully if from a social web page or IM
- Contact your ISP abuse department and that of the bully
- If it is school related talk to someone at school.
- If the problem continues or escalates contact the local law enforcement

Keep personal identifiable information private.



- Name, age, birthday
- School
- Social security number, credit card numbers
- Address
- Phone numbers, including cell phone
- Family or friends names and information (don’t put other people at risk.)

Watch what information you share indirectly. That’s your school mascot, when your favorite band played near your home and other information they could use to find you.

- Make sure your screen name doesn’t say too much, don’t include items like your name, age or hobbies
- Think before posting photos – what do the photos say about you? What can people see to gain personal information?
- Don’t give out your password to anyone besides your parents or guardians.
- Chat with people you know from the real world
- Check the privacy settings of your site
- When someone threatens you or asks for too much information, talk to your parents, a teacher or the local police