

**SOS** INTERNATIONAL

# ONLINE SAFETY TIPS



# BETWEEN SCHOOL WORK AND DOWNTIME, CHILDREN FIND THEMSELVES ON THE WEB NOW MORE THAN EVER

Predators are taking advantage of the extra screen time and are changing their strategy to reach younger people. It is a perfect time for families to review and discuss online safety tips and accountability.

## **STATS TO KNOW**

- 1 in 5 Children have been sexually solicited.
- 1 in 4 have come across unwanted pornographic material.
- 70% of kids encounter sexual or overly violent content online while doing homework research.



# TALKING POINTS



## 01 **DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF THE WEB WITH YOUR CHILD.**

Talk openly and honestly about the flood of information available on the web, emphasizing how important internet safety is for personal safety. If a site or person seems untrustworthy, it probably is.

## 02 **ADDRESS THE DANGERS OF CHAT ROOMS AND ENGAGING STRANGERS ONLINE.**

Chat rooms are a popular place for sex offenders to meet their prey. Come up with good family practices for chat rooms and for when strangers, even friendly ones, try to engage with you.

## 03 **DISCUSS THE DANGERS OF GIVING OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION.**

Talk about bringing in accountability with parents if they make any new "friends" on the internet. Talk about good family practices when being asked for personal information, pictures and face to face meetings. These practices are important even if you know the person in real life.

## 04 **DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY CHECK-INS.**

Have family check-ins and conversations about what apps they're using, who they're talking to, and what they're talking about. These check-ins are a safe space for families to talk and ask questions.

**"TALK ABOUT  
GOOD FAMILY  
PRACTICES..."**



# PRACTICAL STEPS

## FROM CONVERSATION TO IMPLEMENTATION

### **Be present.**

Be available and present as much as possible and join your kids while they are working on homework and research . This is a great opportunity to follow through with good family practices.

### **Keep open communication.**

Kids are more likely to be open and talk if something goes wrong when a parent is committed to staying open. If they are afraid of punishment from their parents, they will be more likely to hide their online activity. Look for ways and opportunities to coach your kids on what healthy on line interaction looks like.

### **Keep your computer in an open area.**

If you have a home computer, move it to an area where you can easily see what family members are engaging in. Have frequent discussions about the good family internet practices that have been discussed and set.

### **Set Parental Controls.**

Be available and present as much as possible and join your kids while they are working on homework and research . This is a great opportunity to follow through with good family practices.

### **Be on the same page.**

Make sure parents and caregivers are on the same page and working as part of a team to provide clarity and consistency in your family's online practices . Consistency between guardians is key to helping children understand the seriousness of the matter and helps to uphold boundaries.

**"LOOK FOR WAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
TO COACH YOUR KIDS"**

# PARENTAL CONTROLS:

- BarkParental Controls
- Boomerang Parental Controls
- CleanBrowsing DNS
- Circle
- Covenant Eyes Accountability
- Mobicip Control Software

## **Additional Resources:**

"Tips for Parents | Parenting Tips" by PBS .org

"Talking to Your Child About Internet Safety" by csa.gov.sg

"Cyberbullying and Internet Safety for Kids (infographic)"

by safeatlast.co "Privacy and InternetSafety Parent Concern" by commonsensemedia.org

"5 Tips for Parents to make YouTube Safer for Kids" by saferinternet.org .uk "Internet Safety (for Parents)" by kidshealth.org