



## Online Child Safety

One of the biggest concerns parents have in the online and social media world is how to teach their children how to smartly and safely navigate the internet and not fall victim to online predators and bullying. For many parents, this can prove to be a difficult task as they may not know where to begin or where to find resources that will help them to teach their kids about the importance of online safety.

Some Alarming Statistics:

- One of every 17 minors online has been threatened or harassed online.
- An alarming 75% of children share personal information about themselves willingly over the Internet in exchange for goods and services.
- One out of five U.S. teens who regularly log on to the Internet have received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet, 1 in 33 have been aggressively pursued sexually online.
- 77% of youths are contacted by online predators by age 14, and 22% of children ages 10 to 13 are approached.
- Only 25% of our children will tell a parent about an encounter with a predator who approached or solicited sex while on the Internet, and less than 10% report sexual solicitation to legal authorities.
- Only 1/3 of online households in the United States proactively protect their children and teens by using filtering or blocking software.

Following are links to some very useful information that will help you become more aware of the extent of this issue and provide you with a host of resources for keeping your children safe online.

### [US Federal Trade Commission - Protecting Kids Online](#)

A wealth of information on cyberbullying, social media, computer security, mobile phones texting and sexting, and online predators.

### [FBI Parent Resources](#)

Get advice and information to help protect your children from the dangers lurking in both the online and offline worlds.

### [Be Internet Awesome](#)

The site provides a game that children can play online and that teaches them how to safely navigate the internet and social media. "The game takes children to Interland, a magical place brimming with 'both awesome and blahsome surprises.' Your assignment, 'embark on a quest to become a fearless explorer of the online world.'"

### [NetsmartzKids.org](#)

Run by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, NetSmartz for Kids provides age appropriate information for children ages 5 – 17. Videos of the month are submitted by children and featured on the site's main page.

### [McGruff Just for Kids](#)

Online safety games for kids. Bullying, community safety, school safety, guns, drugs and online safety.