

We do not post personal pictures on the Internet of ourselves or other people or send photos of ourselves through email.
 We don't shop at websites that don't respect our security and privacy.
 We always use passwords and we change them often.
 We understand that whatever information is revealed in chat rooms may or may not be the truth.
 We make sure our computer and Internet security is always up to date.
 We never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone we met on the Internet or in a chat room.
 As your parent/guardian, I will remain calm you when you tell me about any problems you are having on the Internet.
 I will support you in whatever way I can.
 We do not assume that the people we meet on the internet are who they claim to be.

Reporting

What can you report?

Any material that you find is exploiting a child sexually or physically. If there is a situation where the child is at immediate danger, call 911, the local police department, or child abuse hotline. You can report any material that makes you feel uncomfortable such as an online conversation where there is a suspected adult proposing sexual activity to those under the age of 18.

Where should you report?

You can make a report to your local police department and ask to speak to a detective from the Internet Child Exploitation Division. You can also make a report to Cybertip.ca. This website is Canada's National Tip line for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children. The website receives and responds to reports from the public regarding child pornography, luring, child sex tourism, and children who are exploited through prostitution. Cybertip.ca also provides the public with information, referrals and other resources to help people keep themselves and their children safe while on the internet.

Internet Resources

- www.cybertip.ca
- www.cyberwise.ca
- www.getwebwise.ca
- www.isafe.org
- www.cyberbullying.ca
- www.bullying.org
- www.ncecc.ca
- www.msn.staysafeonline.ca

For more information or an internet safety presentation, contact the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton at 423-4102.



The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton is a non-profit organization funded by the United Way of Edmonton and Area, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), Alberta Provincial Government, service clubs, foundations, and public donations.

Registered under the Societies Act of Alberta since 1975.

Donations gratefully accepted.

A registered charitable organization.
 Charitable number: 107971772 RP0001



Sexual Assault
 Centre of Edmonton

Suite 205, 14964-121A Avenue,
 Edmonton, Alberta T5V 1A3
 Business line: 780/423-4102
 T.T.Y. (Telephone Device for the Deaf) line:
 780/420-1482
 fax: 780/421-8734
 info@sace.ab.ca

24 hour crisis line: 780/423-4121
 www.sace.ab.ca



internet
 safety



Sexual Assault
 Centre of Edmonton

- ~ providing crisis intervention
- ~ public education
- ~ counselling

www.sace.ab.ca

Using the Internet

The Internet is a very valuable resource that provides access to knowledge and information from all over the world . It is also used as a form of worldwide communication. However, along with these great uses of cyberspace there are some risks and dangers involved for children, youth, and adults.

What Are Your Kids Doing?

The Media Awareness Network conducted a survey in 2005; youth between grades 4 to 11 were asked about their activities online. 72% of youth were using the internet for homework. 77% were using the internet to play online games, 65% for downloading music, 64% for email, 66% talked to friends or instant messaged and 55% of youth were using the internet to look into a topic of interest or other school work. A survey conducted in 2001, stated that 71% of youth had email accounts. By 2005, 86% of youth had email accounts. The top three activities of choice that youth engaged in online during their free time were instant messaging, playing video games and listening to or downloading music. Parents tend to view the internet as a static source of information and not the interactive communication tool that youth see it as.

What Are The Risks?

Exposure to inappropriate material (sexual, hateful, violent, illegal).
Vulnerability to predators who can lure children (abduction, sexual assault).
Harassment or cyber bullying through email or chat rooms.
Financial risks when giving out personal information (e.g. parent's credit card).
Legal risks if youth violate other people's rights.
Online hate propaganda.
An unknown file containing a virus may be downloaded which could increase the risk of a hacker getting hold of personal information.

(Adapted from Director of Crimes Against Children Research Center in the U.S. & www.safekids.com)

Internet Predators

Internet predators can be of any age, sex, race or ethnic background. They tend to spend a lot of time on the internet and often masquerade behind the computer screen. They tend to seek children to befriend, control and exploit. Internet predators often have more than one victim and will "groom" many children at one time. The grooming process is not a quick process, it may take the perpetrator a couple of weeks to several months; during this time they tend to be very patient. Predators will also assume many different identities by lying about their age, sex, school, work, appearance, friends, sports etc. In order to convince the individual that they have similar interests or ideas. Predators may gradually introduce sexual content into conversations or they may take a different approach and immediately engage in sexually explicit conversations with children.

Important Information

Who are we really talking to?

When speaking to anyone on the internet via chat rooms or instant messaging, we never really know who the recipient is on the other end of the computer. Anyone can claim to be of a different gender or age.

Pictures are in cyberspace forever

Once a picture is posted on the internet, it is in cyberspace forever. Individuals may have posted their picture on the web but later on decided that they want to remove the picture. Individuals may be under the impression that their picture is off the web, but in reality anyone can save the picture onto their hard drive without your knowledge; those pictures may continue to circulate forever.

Your IP address

People can determine your city, address or other personal information about you with access to your IP address. An IP address is a unique identification number that each computer has. With this number individuals can access personal information.

What is Cyber-bullying?

Cyber-bullying is the use of electronic information and electronic devices like e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging, cell phones, pagers, and websites to bully or harass other individuals or groups through personal attacks or other means.

Cyber-bullying and the Law

Stalking/Criminal Harassment- it is a crime to communicate repeatedly with someone if that communication causes them to fear for their safety.

Libel/ Defamation of character- it is a crime to publish something that insults a person, hurts their reputation, or exposes them to hatred, contempt or ridicule.

If someone is spreading hate or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color , religion, sex, sexual orientation etc, it violates the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Related Criminal Offenses

When using the internet, one needs to be aware of related criminal offenses involved with the misuse of the internet. If an individual comes across any sort of material which entails any type of electronic recording, visual representation, written or audio material that is sexually exposing a child whom is under the age of 18, or if that child is displayed in any sexually explicit material, it falls under the child pornography law.

If an adult is using a child for sexual purposes of any kind, involving children in sexually explicit material or if an adult is exposing a child to sexual activity or behavior, they can be charged with sexual exploitation.

When an adult use the internet to communicate with a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation or abuse, they could be charged with luring a child.

Individual may not realize that misuse of the internet could lead to criminal charges. Therefore, if any of these types of behaviors are occurring, you may consider reporting to your local police department.

Family Contract

The following internet contracts or pledges will help establish guidelines, discussions and boundaries when using the internet. An important step towards internet use is to keep the computer in a public area of the home. The following pledges are adapted from: www.netsmartz.com

Post everywhere you have a computer

We believe computer security is the business of everyone in this home.

We do not fight, swear or gossip in our email. We never respond to inflammatory, obscene or insulting emails.

We never swap software, games or files, unless we're sure they do not contain viruses. We never download pictures, freeware, shareware or text from an unknown source or websites we don't trust.

We never open email attachments from an unknown person or company.

We respect our friends' email privacy by deleting forwarded email addresses before sending these messages onward. We use the 'Bcc' feature when sending messages from our address book to protect our contacts.

We never respond to Spam or junk mail.

We don't give out identifying information such as our name, address, school, phone number or other personal information.