

What Are Signs That Your Child Might Be At Risk On-line?

- Your child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night..
- You find pornography on your child's computer.
- Your child receives phone calls from adults you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize.
- Your child receives mail, gifts or packages from someone you don't know.
- Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.
- Your child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else.

What Should You Do If You Suspect Your Child Is Communicating With A Sexual Predator On-line?

Talk openly with your child about your suspicions. Tell them about the dangers of computer-sex offenders.

Review what is on your child's computer. If you don't know how, ask a friend, coworker, relative or other knowledgeable person. Pornography or any kind of sexual communication can be a warning sign.

Monitor your child's access to all types of live electronic communications (i.e., chat rooms, instant messages, etc.), and monitor your child's e-mail. Computer-sex offenders almost always meet potential victims via chat rooms. After meeting a child on-line, they will continue to communicate electronically often via e-mail.

Use the **Caller ID** service to determine who is calling your child. Most telephone companies that offer Caller ID also offer a service that allows you to block your number from appearing on someone else's Caller ID.



Internet Safety



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Hudson Bay, SK S0E 0Y0
Phone~ (306) 865-3064
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hbfamilyandsupport@sasktel.net
www.hbfamilyandsupport.ca

24 Hour Crisis Line
(North East Region)
1-800-611-6349

Using the Internet to Communicate

The Internet is a great way of staying in touch and meeting people. Chat rooms, social networking sites like Facebook, MSN, Yahoo and email make it easy to speak to people from all over the world. However, the net can also be used for inappropriate communication and it is important to be aware of how to use it safely.

Some of the ways in which the net may be wrongly used include:

- Harassing you with information when you have asked not to be contacted.
- People using the net to gain your trust so they can then have sexual contact with you.
- Using the net to work out your movements so that someone can rob your house.

There are a number of things you can do to help to reduce the likelihood of these things happening.

Avoid giving out personal details - Remember, using the Net to meet people means you don't really know who is on the other end of the line. It is possible to get to know someone's interests and to be friends with them without having to give out your personal details such as your address, surname or phone number.

If someone is pressuring you to give you these details it may be a good idea to question why they need them.

To avoid giving out your surname, which allows people to find out more about you, you may like to sign in with just your first name when chatting.

Using a pseudonym (e.g. Dolphin99) is also a good idea. When you are setting up an email account perhaps you should also use a pseudonym.

Meet new people in a group - If you decide to meet someone you have met over the net, meet in a place where there are lots of people around. This may be at the movies or in a shopping centre. You may also want to take a friend or two with you. Having a group of friends nearby is also a good idea. Meeting in places where no one is around like a park can be dangerous because if the person is not as friendly as first thought, it is harder to get help or leave the situation.

Avoid chatting with people who make sexual references - If someone is using sexual language or references it is best to stop contact with them. Research into pedophiles has shown that stalkers use the net as a place to attract young people and they often start by talking sexually before asking to meet the young person face-to-face. If the person keeps contacting you, contact the police.

Parental Advice:

Know your children and their friends. You like to ask who your kids are going out to play with or who their parents are so what is stopping you from asking the same questions.

Many online pedophiles will be scared off once they know that an adult is aware of the relationship. Your children's safety is your responsibility and first priority; if at any time you feel that you need to intervene do so.

Research and utilize parental controls for the internet that stop certain words, sets timers on how long the internet can be used etc.

Educate yourself and your children on the dangers of online chat rooms. Look up if there are listed pedophiles in your area. Teach your children the warning signs and what is appropriate language and questions that people will be asking.

