SAFETY TIPS

- Keep the computer and internet-connected gaming systems in a common area. Visibility and supervision is key.
- Create a family agreement for internet usage (when and where they go online, how long they can stay online, what activities they can participate in). Remember to include all web-connected devices in these ground rules.
- Use parental controls, filtering, and monitoring software and tools. REMEMBER, no safeguard is 100% effective- you are your child's best online protector.
- Maintain access to your child's online accounts and randomly check them. Be upfront with your child about your oversight and why it is important.

Contact Us

Child Protection Center

(941) 365-1277
www.cpcsarasota.org

720 S. Orange Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34236

Florida Abuse Hotline:
1 (800) 96-ABUSE

*33% of 13-17 year olds reported that their parents/guardians know "**very little**" or "**nothing**" about what they do on the internet. 22% of those surveyed reported their parents/guardians have **NEVER** discussed internet safety with them.*

(National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)

"Protecting Children is Everyone's Job"

follow us at **The Child Protection Center** for continuous tips on how to keep your child safe.

Internet Safety: A Guide for Parents

CHILD PROTECTION CENTER
(941) 365-1277
WWW.CPCSARASOTA.ORG

TEACH CHILDREN

- Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone that they meet online. People online may not be who they seem to be, they are strangers regardless of how long the online chatting has taken place.
- Not to respond to messages that are hostile, belligerent, or inappropriate.
- Keep their identity private– never give out personal information (including name, phone number, school name, pictures, etc.).
- Not to download pictures from an unknown source or follow links that are contained in an email from someone they don't know– it could contain explicit images, lead to inappropriate sires, or send a virus to the device.

COMMUNICATE

- Be approachable. Kid's are often hesitant to share what's happening online because they fear harsh consequences.
- Predators are patient, clever, and will build a bond. Having strong communication with a parent/guardian reduces a child's vulnerability to those looking to exploit a child's curiosity, rebellion, or need for connection.
- Ask them what they're doing online— better yet, ask them to SHOW you what they are doing.
- Set a good example! Put down your technology and have meaningful moments with your children.

KNOW THE APPS

SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, recent features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.

KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

CALCULATOR% is only one of several secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.

BIGO Live is known for its live-streaming abilities. The app encourages users to join live video chats with people nearby as well as across the world.

CYBERBULLYING

The use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

If your child is experiencing cyber-bullying encourage them to:
- Ignore/Don't Respond
- Block the person
- Report the bullying on the app/game they are playing.

KNOW THE RISKS

- Exposure to inappropriate material that is sexual, hateful, or violent encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal.
- Possibility of doing something that has negative legal or financial consequences (i.e. giving out a parent's credit card number, sending or receiving inappropriate pictures).
- Possibility of providing information or arranging an encounter that could risk the safety of the child or other family members.

Report suspicious online activity to the Cyber Tipline:

1 (800) 843-5678
www.cybertipline.com

Reports can be made 24/7 and will be forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency and electronic service provider for review & investigation.

Mandated reporting categories include: online enticement of a child for sex acts, child pornography, child prostitution, misleading domain names, obscene material sent to a child, & sex tourism.