

Quick Links....

A MySpace Cheat Sheet for Parents
by going to:

[http://wired.com/news/technology/0,
70287-0.html](http://wired.com/news/technology/0,70287-0.html)

Wired Kids, Inc. by going to:

<http://wiredkids.com/>

NetSmartz Workshop

<http://www.netsmartz.org>



*Provided Courtesy of the
Burlington County
Sheriff's Department
Crime Prevention Unit*

Jean E. Stanfield
Sheriff

49 Rancocas Road
P. O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060

Telephone: 609-265-5785
Fax: 609-265-5923
For further information
E-Mail: mvanness@co.burlington.nj.us



BURLINGTON COUNTY
SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT

The Internet & Children's



**Safety Tips for ensuring
your children are safe
when using the Internet.**



Jean E. Stanfield

The Internet



The Internet is a vast and wondrous tool that places valuable information about almost any subject at our fingertips. Unfortunately, the

Internet is also a place where children can be seriously endangered and victimized by sexual predators.

The internet can also provide extraordinary tools for parents to learn how to be more effective and successful in raising children. There are numerous websites where they can find the latest and best information on parenting and child development, such as BabyCenter.com, ParentCenter.com, and the CICC website. Additionally, the Effective Parenting Newsletter founded by Dr. Kerby T. Alby from the Center for the Improvement for Child Caring (CICC) has grown to be one of the largest most productive non-profit parenting and parenting education organizations. For more information go to www.ciccparenting.org, or call 1-800-325-2422



Safety Tips

1. Spend time "surfing" the Net with your child. Encourage them to explore the healthy creative opportunities offered by the Internet.
2. Make use of parental control features. If your Internet Service Provider (ISP) doesn't already offer them, a variety of aftermarket programs are available quite inexpensively and will allow you to block out sites containing pornographic, obscene, or violent content.
3. Make sure your computer is in a public place in the house. An area heavily trafficked will not provide much opportunity to hide what your child may be doing, and will give you a chance to step in and correct any problems.
4. It is a good idea to restrict both the amount of time and the time of day you allow your children on the Internet. Late nights often mean not only a slower connection due to typically heavier traffic, but also more adults and less children using these systems. Over long hours spent online aren't healthy either, as this causes vision problems and discourages exercise and social interaction.
5. Carefully watch your children's "chat-room" discussions. While they may find someone online that genuinely shares their interests and hobbies, there have been a number of cases where predators have targeted children through the Internet. Severely limiting or even blocking access to chat-rooms is probably a good idea.
6. Review history logs kept by your computer. These can tell you what sites your child has

been accessing and even record your child's chat room conversations. This can provide valuable warnings if your child should be approached by a predator online.

7. Teach your children not to send personal data such as phone numbers, house address, school name or photographs of themselves over the Internet. Anytime someone asks for this kind of information, make sure they know to tell you.
8. Don't ever allow your children to go to meet someone they befriended "online" alone. Make sure that you have a chance to talk to their "cyber-buddies" first and even talk to the friend's parents. Adult predators and pedophiles often pose as children online, and sometimes lure children into meeting them somewhere, such as a mall or other place away from home.

Law Enforcement Contacts:

Should your family become the victim of an Internet Crime, you should first contact your local police department. You may also contact:

- Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit, Telephone 609-265-5879.



Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth (2000) found that one in five youths using the Internet receive online sexual solicitations.

These dangers have recently become more widely acknowledged as more young people are using the Internet for social networking and friendship communication purposes. A good example of this phenomena is the use of [MySpace.com](http://www.myspace.com), which now has over 70 million youthful members and [Facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

How to Find your kid's online blog
Your children value their independence and privacy. But they may be opening themselves up online. More children than ever use online journals (blogs). Some popular journal sites include MySpace, Xanga and LiveJournal. You as parents can search these sites to see if your children are registered. For example....

MySpace.com Go to www.myspace.com. Click on search from the menu bar. At the next page, check "Find Someone You Know". Enter your child's name and click Find. Most members post photos, so it should be easy to find your child. If you don't get any results, try to search for your child's e-mail address if you know it.

ABC News Internet Safety Report

Ned Potter the Science Correspondent for ABC News "World News Tonight" reported on 7/24/2006 that new software is available for parents to monitor their children on the internet. This includes automatic e-mails to the parent's should their child enter 'keyword' searches such as 'sex', or even the ability to view their children's e-mails, IM's (instant messages), etc.

Software Available:

eBlaster (<http://www.spectorsoft.com/>)

Content Protect (<http://www.contentwatch.com/>)

IM Einstein (<http://www.im-protector.com/>)

SafeEyes (<http://www.safeeyes.com/>)

Mentioned in this article are statistics provided by Common Sense Media:

- 85% of Parents say the Internet is the most risky (medium) for kids, compared to 13% for TV.
- 80% of Parents say they would like to make the Internet a safer place for kids.
- 83% of Parents say there is no excuse for not knowing enough about the Internet to protect your kids or teens.

To be sure, parents in the Common Sense Media poll also saw benefits to their children's web use:

- 91% of Parents say that the Internet helps their kids explore things they're passionate about
- 77% of Parents say they see the Internet as an important tool

Internet Acronyms

Children communicate with each other through e-mails and chat rooms using a number of acronyms. Do you know what they mean ?

Internet Acronyms

121: one to one ADN: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard A/S/L: age, sex, location B4: before B4N: bye for now BAK: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBN: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BEG: big evil grin BF: boyfriend BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BVV: bursting with laughter BVWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know C&G: chuckle & grin CID: crying in disgrace CNP: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSG: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAU: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DQMOT: don't quote me on this EG: evil grin EMFBI: excuse me for butting in EMSG: E-mail message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTYEWTH: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth GTG: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling by butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GOL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night HHIS: hanging head in shame HTN: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IAH: I hate acronyms IIRC: if I remember correctly ILLU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMNSHO: in my hot so humble opinion IMO in my opinion IOW: in other words IPN: I'm posting naked IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you IYSWIM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMO: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LBR: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause LMIRL: let's meet in real life LMSO: laughing my socks off LOL: laugh out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother LULAS: love you like a sister LUWAMH: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MSG: message MTF: more to follow MUSM: miss you so much NADT: not a darn thing NIFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer P911: my parents are coming! PAW: parents are watching PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJIB: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face POS: parents over shoulder PU: that stinks QT: cute RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now S4L: spam for life SAW: siblings are watching SETE: smiling ear to ear SHCOON: shoot hot coffee out of nose SHID: slaps head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SNERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet! SOT: short of time STW: sarch the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: see you soon TA: thanks again TAW: teachers are watching TCOB: take care of business TCOY: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TILLI: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TTYL: talk to you later UWV: you're welcome WV: welcome back WFM: works for me WIBNI: wouldn't it be nice if WTG: way to go WTGP: want to go private! WU: what's up WUF: where are you from YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young men