



CHILDRENONLINE.ORG

Internet Safety Newsletter from Marje Monroe and Doug Fodeman

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SAFE PRACTICES FOR LIFE ONLINE

"Safe Practices for Life Online" is designed to teach students skills for using the Internet more safely and focus attention on issues that arise from life online. It also reveals many of the scams targeting kids online and how to avoid them. Students learn how to reduce their chances of being targeted online and how to better protect their privacy and the value of that privacy. "Safe Practices for Life Online" is available in a Teacher's edition, published by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), and in a student's edition. The student edition is designed to accompany the teacher's edition and is self-published through Lulu.com to keep the cost as low as possible for schools to purchase. The book is 130 pages and filled with

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13th Edition of the Children Online Newsletter.

Recent stories in the news and stories we have heard from parents have prompted this month's topic. It is another reminder how important it is for parents and educators to talk to children and teenagers about values, ethics and behavior in the context of the Internet and the technologies they use to socialize.



On a different note, we have several very exciting announcements for those who find our resources and services of value.

We are very happy to announce that Marje Monroe has decided to become a full-time consultant for ChildrenOnline.org AND start a consulting practice for parents and schools centered around teen life issues. Expect more information by summer's end.

Our first book for schools, titled "Safe Practices for Life Online", has been published and is available for order. Links to both the teacher's and student's editions can be found on our website. [Look at the side bar for additional information.] We are also well into our next book and expect it to be published by the fall. It provides strategies for parents on Internet safety, dealing with children/teen's behavior about their online activities, and the privacy/safety problems affecting the family computer(s).

Finally, it seems that our concerns about YouTube have caught the attention of ABC's Good Morning America. There is a possibility that they may do a news story about YouTube issues and kids one morning next week.

nearly 90 classroom exercises/activities. It is also supported by a password-protected website containing all web resources found in the book as well as new resources as they are found.

Teacher's edition:

www.iste.org/LifeOn

Student's edition:

www.lulu.com/content/2682488

Topics include:

- * Passwords and screen names
- * Protecting your privacy online
- * Avoiding identity theft and impersonation
- * What do you do when you feel uncomfortable online?
- * Cyberbullying
- * Instant Messaging
- * Social Networks
- * Communication: Real life vs. life online
- * Learning to be media savvy online
- * Scams and phishing
- * Home rules for Internet safety: Working with parents
- * How private is your life online? A test.
- * Online resources

About ChildrenOnline.org

ChildrenOnline.org offers innovative and comprehensive workshops on Internet safety and online education to students, parents, faculty and administrators. Our approach, unique in the field of Internet safety, combines a thorough understanding of Internet technologies, child development and counseling, to focus on the impact of the internet on the

As always, we welcome your comments and questions.
Marje Monroe and Doug Fodeman

LIKE CAR KEYS, MUST PARENTS

COLLECT CELL PHONES AT A PARTY?

Ask a group of teens today to raise their hand if their cell phones have a camera and most hands will go up. The average teen uses their cell phone for texting, snapping pictures, playing games, accessing email and taking videos with the built-in camera. In fact the actual voice-calling feature may be one of the least used devices on some teen's cell phones. The rapid growth of cell phone technology enables the average person to snap pictures or record videos anywhere and post them online, sometimes immediately. The new iPhone, for example, can contain software that allows users to instantly upload videos to the website YouTube.com, or pictures to Flickr.com. Most websites like YouTube and Flickr contain very specific user policies which spell out the rights of users versus the website owners. Teens rarely read the small print of the sites they use. In fact, most adults don't read the small print. In reality, social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube explicitly state that they have the right to archive, copy, retain, transfer or use the content posted on their site in any way they deem necessary. In essence, any words, images, original user-created music or videos posted on most social networking sites including My Space, Facebook, and YouTube belong to the sites and not to the individual. Adolescents making mistakes and pushing boundaries online can and do create serious implications for themselves and their peers. Some users have seen their creative rights taken away such as one user whose original music was used to create a ringtone without his permission. Combine a teen's tendency to be impulsive and the possibility of alcohol and/or drugs impairing judgment along with dozens of camera-ready cell phones at a teen party. These ingredients can potentially have very serious ramifications. Just as some parents of older teens collect car keys at the door of a party, some parents are now faced with a whole new question. Should parents be collecting cell phones at teen parties or sleep-overs? For teens who have grown up in a world where privacy and boundaries are often blurred, it can be very difficult to grasp the implications of privacy and censorship. In today's world, we can potentially be filmed or recorded at any time.

social, emotional and language development of young people.

Doug Fodeman and Marje Monroe, experts in technology, counseling and education, work together to provide invaluable research and tools for parents and schools with practical real-life solutions to the issues faced by young people online. Since 1997, Marje and Doug have spoken to thousands of students, teachers and parents. They have several publications in the area of Internet safety and offer a free online newsletter. More detailed information can be found at ChildrenOnline.org.

Private gatherings, meetings, or simply hanging out with a friend in his or her bedroom becomes public when posted on online. Sadly, there are thousands of examples of embarrassing, humiliating, hurtful and illegal behavior found in photos and videos posted by teens online. Many of them were spontaneously captured using a cell-phone camera.

Recently, CNN spent days replaying a fight that occurred at the home of a teenage girl. The video clearly showed a group of girls engaging in mean, bullying and aggressive behavior. The plan to beat and humiliate one girl even seemed to have been orchestrated with posting on YouTube in mind. This video presents a host of questions and concerns for parents including ethics, peer pressure, callous, even criminal behavior, and privacy concerns. Teens and young adults often see themselves as witnesses to events around them rather than participants. Why didn't the girls shooting the video call the police, intervene or leave? As word of the video posting spread, why didn't someone report the video to YouTube or authorities and have it removed immediately?

While, this is an extreme case, it does provide a graphic illustration how technology transforms behavior. Did the girls "act" differently knowing they were being videoed? Did their desire for "notoriety" online influence or motivate their cruelty and misbehavior? It is hard for today's teens to be immune to the pressures and lures of technology. Combine a teen's tendency to be impulsive, the possibility of alcohol and/or drugs impairing judgment along with dozens of camera-ready cell phones and there is a potential for very serious consequences. They are striving to get attention and be noticed. They also push boundaries and do so into virtual realms where most parents don't venture. Cell phones, and the use of their cameras, are just one more example of a technology that parents to have a conversation about with their kids. This also means a conversation about privacy in the context of the Internet.

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