



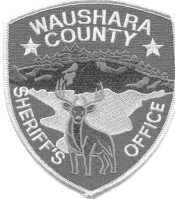
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Prevention Pointers Article
(Please include logo)

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PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE LIFE

The Internet is an invaluable tool, but there are serious dangers that need to be discussed. It's important to educate your children and better protect them from online sexual predators and online sexual solicitation. 1 in 5 children is sexually solicited online.

- Prepare your children for the online world just as you would the real world.
 - ❖ Establish guidelines and rules.
 - ❖ Know who communicates with your children.
- Learn about the Internet.
 - ❖ Familiarize yourself with the programs they are using.
 - ❖ Consider using Internet filters.
- Place the computer in a common room where supervision and guidelines are more easily observed and met.
- Talk about the benefits and dangers of the Internet to help children make smart decisions.

When communicating online:

- Tell your children not to write anything they wouldn't say in public.
- Reinforce people are not always who they say they are when communicating online.
- Make sure your children know how dangerous it is to give out personal information such as their name, mailing address, or e-mail address.
- Stress the fact it is not safe to get together with someone they first "meet" online.

Websites available to assist you with this endeavor:

www.cybertipline.org

www.netsmartz.org

www.safetyclicks.com

A network of committed community members and organizations who collaborate and advocate for effective prevention programs serving Waushara County.