

Green Bear Guidelines

Online Safety Information



Online Statistics

- One in four teens receive sexually explicit texts/emails
- One in seven are sending sexts
- Only four out of ten parents are discussing online safety with their children

Sexting can lead to more serious crimes:

- Internet facilitated sexual assault (meeting an online stranger and being sexually assaulted)
- Sextortion – Someone is blackmailed into sending money or more naked images to thwart their images being posted or distributed online.

Sources: Madigan, S. *The Prevalence of Unwanted Online Sexual Exposure and Solicitation Among Youth – a Meta-analysis.* 8/20/18.

Rapaport, Lisa. *Teen Sexting May be More Common than You Think.* Reuters Health News. 2/27/2018

Any child can be victimized online—it doesn't matter if a child is a "straight A" student, is considered well-adjusted or has many friends.

Reasons Children Enjoy being Online

- Easy access to any type of information
- Easy way to communicate with friends and family privately
- Can make "new friends"
- Enhance creativity by sharing ideas, music and art
- Meet and interact with others who share similar interests.

Reasons Perpetrators Like being Online

- Instant access to other predators worldwide which allows open discussion of sexual desires, provides validation for their behavior and allows them to lure victims together.
- Instant access to child victims worldwide and can disguise their identity when approaching children (i.e. posing as another child).

Indications Something May Be Wrong

- Excessive time online, especially late at night
- Mention of people you do not know
- Changes in behavior such as secretiveness or inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Your child quickly changes the computer screen when you enter the room
- Receipt of gifts