

WATCHOUT



DELHI TOWNSHIP POLICE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (513)922-0060

Winter 2009

The Internet Can Be a Dangerous Place for A Child!

Anyone can create Web pages and post information. A child may encounter:

- **Sexual Material:** Internet users can come across pornography and sexually oriented sites – often by mistake.
- **Sexual predators:** Sexual predators can use the Internet to locate and contact children without being found out.
- **Alcohol and drugs:** There are sites that may glorify drug use, sell illegal drugs or advertise alcoholic beverages.
- **Gambling:** Some sites allow people to gamble online.
- **Bullying:** Children may be bullied by chat room members or via harassing e-mails, instant messages or information posted to Web sites.
- **Violence:** Some sites may explain how to make weapons or discuss other violent activities.
- **Hate and intolerance:** Some people use the Internet to promote hatred of different races, religions or sexual orientations.

Parental supervision with the Internet is imperative:

You can make a difference by taking every opportunity to:

- **Be there with your child:** Few safety measures are as effective as exploring the Internet with your child.

- **Share your values:** Let your child know which sites and topics on the Internet are not OK to explore. Be sure to explain why.
- **Have discussions:** Have discussions about Web sites and other Internet offerings – much like you would talk about a TV show or movie.
- **Build “critical thinking” skills:** Help your child judge the value of the information he or she finds by asking questions about the material on the site.

Establish family rules:

Rules for the Internet should cover:

- **Time Limits:** Establish daily or weekly time limits. Consider making certain hours of the day off-limits (for example, when your child is home alone). Make sure your child has plenty of time for:
 - Physical activity
 - Homework
 - Friends
 - Rest
- **Placement of computers:** Set up the computer in a common area such as the living room. This will help you:
 - Monitor activity
 - Ensure your child doesn't become secretive about his or her Internet use.
- **Costs:** It costs money to use the Internet. Decide which services you can afford.

Personal security is a must: Make sure your child:

- Never gives out personal information over the Internet. This includes your child's or your:
 - First or last name
 - Home or work address
 - Telephone number
 - School name or location
 - Passwords
 - Photographs
 - Financial information
- **Never arrange a face-to-face meeting:** Your child may want to get together with people he or she meets on the Internet. As we all know, people may not be who they claim to be.
- **Never respond to offensive messages:** It can only make matters worse. Tell your child to let you know about any offensive or mean messages. (Assure your child that he or she is not to blame for getting these kinds of messages.)
- **Your child should never reveal if he or she is home alone.**

Wondering Where to Start With Your Child?

Try Visiting These Recommended sites:

- <http://kids.getnetwise.org>: Valuable resources for parents and children.
- <http://pbskids.org>: The Public Broadcasting Service's Web site for children.
- www.firstgov.kids.us: Provides links to the federal government's sites for children and other links.
- www.nasa.gov/audience/for_kids: Site developed by NASA with special links for children.
- www.epa.gov/kids: The U.S. E.P.A.'s Web site for children.
- www.loc.gov: The Library of Congress's Web site – resources and exhibits on countless subjects for children and adults.

Report any messages received via the internet that are harassing or sexual in nature:

Contact our police department (513) 922-0060 (providing that you are a Delhi resident or if the correspondence was received in Delhi) and your internet service provider upon receiving any suspicious or threatening message. **Do not delete any part of the message until these organizations say that it's OK.**

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES:

We all hear about a Level 1, 2 or 3 but exactly what does that mean?

Level 1 Emergency: Roads are hazardous and people should drive with caution.

Level 2 Emergency: Driving is discouraged and you should call before heading to work.

Level 3 Emergency: Only emergency vehicles should be on the roads. People could be prosecuted if they decide to drive on local roads.

When considering driving during this winter season, please be aware of the weather where you will be traveling to and drive accordingly. Snow, ice, sleet and slush can all play havoc with your trip.



For information on the Blockwatch Program Contact:

Lt. Jeff Braun

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