Keeping Adults and Children Safe on the Internet

The Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate and function in our day-to-day lives exposing us all to an unimagined volume of ideas and possibilities. We are only beginning to understand the full impact that such expanded access to images and information is having on adults and children.

Access to the online world via computers, other communication devices and networks offers an experience of anonymity which increases the chance that both children and adults will take risks and experiment with behavior they might never attempt in "real life".

We must acknowledge our responsibility to educate ourselves and our children about safely using this rapidly changing technology. By taking protective actions in advance and speaking up about questionable behavior, we can help prevent harmful use of the Internet. Below are resources to learn more about protecting those you care about and responding effectively to concerning online activity.

Prevention Resources for Families

The Internet and Children - What's the Problem? published by Stop It Now! UK and Ireland.

In addition to offering Internet safety tips for families and children, this 30-page booklet encourages people to question their own use of the Internet and new technologies and to seek advice if they are accessing sexually harmful material online. It provides the information needed to recognize the signs that someone you care about may be at-risk or need help. To download a free copy, go to http://www.stopitnow.org.uk and select Publications.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

This national child abuse prevention organization hosts a comprehensive list of resources and publications that equip parents and guardians to take informed protective steps against child sexual exploitation. www.missingkids.com

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety offers straight-forward definitions, FAQ's, "what-if" scenarios, signs your child may be at risk, and suggestions about how to respond safely. www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm

Wired Kids, Inc.

Learn how to protect your privacy and security online, and how to teach responsible Internet use. Parenting Online, is a handbook available here offering guidance on what the real risks are and how to set the rules. www.wiredkids.org

Stop Cyberbullying

Often kids are too embarrassed, ashamed or afraid to tell their parents about online bullying. This comprehensive website on cyberbullying includes valuable information for parents, youth, schools, and law enforcement. Find out how you can take action to prevent or intervene in cyberbullying.
www.stopcyberbullying.org

If You Are Concerned About Your Own or Someone Else's Behaviors Online

Croga.org - You Can Stop!

A free and anonymous, self-directed online program offers techniques to identify and cope with difficult emotions and thoughts which can lead to illegal use of the Internet. Not meant as a substitute for professional advice or treatment. www.croga.org

ChildLustRecovery.org - Recovery from Child Pornographyi Use

Understanding the harm of child pornography[i] to the user and their family, successful recovery stories, self-assessment, book lists, federal and state laws, penalties, reporting, and resources for getting help.
www.childlustrecovery.org

Cybersexualaddiction.com

If you or someone you know is using the computer for sexual activities that are causing harm or hardship to themselves or those they love, there are resources here for self-tests, books, articles, and support, www.cybersexualaddiction.com

The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA)

A national membership of professionals who specialize in the treatment of adults and youth who are at risk to be or have been sexually abusive. Contact ATSA directly for a confidential referral. (503) 643-1023 or atsa@atsa.com

Reporting Internet Crime

The Cybertipline

An online and phone service which accepts leads regarding Internet criminal activity which are forwarded to law enforcement for review. Operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other state and law enforcement agencies, the Cybertipline is nationally recognized for its up-to-date and comprehensive resources on Internet safety and Internet crime reporting. Learn about the issue, what can be reported, and how to stay safe. www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-843-5678.

The resources above are provided as a public service. Appearance on this list in no way constitutes Stop It Now!'s endorsement of an individual or organization. These resources are not a substitute for professional advice or clinical treatment. If you are concerned about an abusive situation, please seek professional assistance. If you need legal advice or counsel, please consult an attorney.

For more information and guidance, please visit our Online Help Center, http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org.