KEEPING KIDS SAFE

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Just a picture can provide enough information that a predatory can begin to use small clues to locate and start communication with our kids.

Do you know who your kids are interacting with?
Do your KIDS know who they are interacting with?
Are they giving out too much information?
How are kids really using social media?
How are they communicating secretly by using cellular applications? Gaming?

One point that I need to make before I provide additional information is understanding that kids can use multiple ways of accessing the internet and applications. ANYTHING with an interactive element is 'open game' for predators!

Cell phones (most common)
IPods
Laptops or Desktop computers
Tablets, Ipads, Kindle
Gaming devices

Suspending a child's phone does not remove their ability to access their social media apps. Even with a phone 'disconnected' from cellular service, most phones as long as they can connect to wifi, still has the ability to work and be interactive with their accounts. Many parents provide an Ipod for younger children; however, again this device can access the internet as well as become a mobile device simply by downloading an app such as Pinger.

THE GROOMING CYCLE:

1. Target a specific type of child   research the child's family / friends

2. Recon – Researching the child
    What is missing from his/her life
    Where does he struggle
    Where does he hang out
    What does he / she like
    Split family, weak or poor in education

Feels a need for the child

        *gifts, tutoring, offer of job, money, "escape", clothes / toys, invite to do
        activities (video games, camping or adventure parks)

3. Will try and create gratitude from the child "wow this person really cares about me"

4. Isolate the victim for peers and parents (Single Moms)
         Invite to special outings to get child away from family
          (camping / adventure parks)

"I know times can be tough. If you ever just need some time to yourself or need a
helping hand, just call me anytime."

5. Cultivate secrecy
        Try to get child to start with little, small secrets – such as starting small with candy
or
        toys and telling them not to tell parents.

6. Sexualize the relationship

        Gradually desensitize the child by showing them pornography / pictures
        Gradual inappropriate touching then increasing the contact little by little

7. Maintain control and secrecy

        Threaten to take gifts / money
        Threaten physical harm
        Threaten that if they get in trouble the child will get in big trouble also

8. Grooms parents to gain more access to the child…offer to babysit

https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/protecting-children-sexual-abuse/201901/what-parents-need-know-about-sexual-grooming

SNAPCHAT: This app has become one of the best ways for predators to reach out to our kids. Child pornography is rampant on this platform.

It is SO important to understand how easy it is for a complete stranger to reach out and begin chatting with our kids. They believe just because they are chatting, they are now 'friends'. This word, FRIENDS, has become the fall-back word for anyone kids are talking to online. It is always important to reinforce that meeting someone online does NOT make them your FRIEND. Here is a good video showing how, even with parents that have been involved with educating their kids on this, kids will still meet a perfect stranger behind their parent's back: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fg-LhgZLB8M

Example: A 21 year old male UMBC student, posed as a 16 year old girl and was communicating and sending nude pictures over snapchat to get young boys to send nudes back. He would give them gift cards for performing "perverted acts" and providing them pictures. He found his victims by using the QUICK ADD feature. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDfen5i4f-I

If you are unfamiliar with how Snapchat works or just want to know more:

https://www.digitaltrends.com/social-media/how-to-use-snapchat/

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/

Set up Medical ID / Emergency Contact

Apple:
https://www.howtogeek.com/768576/how-to-set-an-emergency-contact-on-iphone-and-why/

Android:
https://www.dignited.com/81668/why-and-how-to-set-up-emergency-contact-info/

Encryption Apps

In today's world, we must look at the realization that kids can now use encrypted applications via their cell p

hones:

Some of the more popular communication applications are: WHATSAPP, Telegram, Wickr Me, Threema, Signal, Twitch, Discord, Facebook Messenger, KIK

Vault Apps: Article with names of apps and explanations

https://www.lifewire.com/best-vault-apps-4172048

MONITORING PROGRAMS: www.bark.us
                                     www.highstermobile.com
                                     www.flexispy.com

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ACRONYMS AND EMOJI'S:

https://www.netlingo.com/acronyms.php
https://emojipedia.org

SOURCES FOR PARENTS:

Websites that are collecting information from children under the age of thirteen are required to comply with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) – Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

http://www.coppa.org/coppa.htm

https://internetsafety101.org/parentsguidetosocialmedia

https://www.fbi.gov/resources/parents

https://www.niot.org/nios

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/

https://www.bestvpn.com/guides/internet-safety/

www.stopbullying.gov/laws/pennsylvania/index.html

- **What are the Pennsylvania laws and regulations that cover bullying?**
- [Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute 18 §2709. Harassment](#)
- [Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute 24 §13-1303.1-A. Policy relating to bullying](#)
- [Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute 24 §5351. Short Title](#)
- [Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute 24 §5352. Definitions](#)
- [Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute 24 §5353. Hazing Prohibited](#)
- [Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute 24 §5354 Enforcement by institution and secondary school](#)
- **For More Information**
- Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's "[Bullying Prevention](#)" webpage.

PA BULLYING PREVENTION CONSULTATION LINE
1-866-716-0424

Messages can be left 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will be returned Monday-Friday during normal business hours. The Bullying Prevention Consultation Line is a toll free number that will allow individuals experiencing chronic and unresolved bullying to discuss effective strategies and available resources to deal with school-based bullying; and is available, to students, parents/guardians and school districts across the state of Pennsylvania.

The following sites do a really good job in providing parents ways to set privacy settings on all devices, explain what apps are and how to set their privacy settings:

https://internetsafety101.org/parentsguidestosocialmedia
https://internetsafety101.org/parentalcontrols
https://parentology.com/most-popular-apps-for-teenagers/7/
https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices