Computer/Online Safety Tips
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Do you know what your kids are doing online? If you are a parent, guardian, caregiver or teacher, then you probably already know that the world of computers is changing ever so fast. And we must try our best to keep up with the latest trend in cyber surfing. Our kids now a days are more tech savvy than most of us are. But as parents, teachers, etc. we must take an active role in creating a safe cyber environment for our kids.

Did you know that:
• 96% of students ages 9 to 17 who have access to the internet have used social networking sites.
• 71% of students ages 9 to 17 use social networking sites on weekly basis.
• Boys are more likely to post personal information than are girls.
• 64% of teens post photos or videos of themselves online, while more than half (58%) post where they live. Females are more likely than males to post personal photos or videos of themselves.
• And nearly 1 in 10 has posted his or her cell phone number online.

This is an alarming trend that we must take action on to prevent online predators, cyber bullying & cyber crimes.

References:
• National Cyber Alert System, Cyber Security Tip ST05—002
• The Parents Edge— A web based resource for parents.

What is cyberbullying?
The use of cell phones, the internet, etc to send either text messages or images in order to embarrass or hurt another person.

♦ 81% of youth said that others cyberbully because they think it is funny

♦ Only 11% of teens talked to parents about incidents of cyberbullying

♦ Nearly 30% of teens wanted to seek revenge on those who cyberbullied them

♦ Over 70% of teens said that being able to block cyberbullies was the most effective method of prevention

♦ 43% of teens have been victims of cyberbullying in the last year

What can you do to help?
• Be involved - this will allow you to supervise online activities while teaching him/her good computer habits.
• Keep the computer in an open area – You will be able to monitor their activity on the computer. It will deter a child from doing something he/she knows is that they are not allowed to do.
• Set rules & warn them of the dangers - let them know what sites are appropriate & inappropriate. And tell them of the dangers online. So that they can recognize suspicious activity or behaviors.
• Monitor computer activity - Be aware of what he/she is doing on the computer. This includes websites they visit, email, instant messaging, chat rooms etc.
• Keep the lines of communication open - Let him/her know that they can approach you with questions about behaviors or problems he/she may encounter while online.
• Consider implementing parental controls - some internet service providers offer services designed to protect children online. And you also may be able to set some parental controls within your browser.

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For More Information check out www.ncpc.org/Cyberbullying for “Stop Cyberbullying Before it Starts”