

Statistics

- ◆ 1 in 5 children who use computer chat rooms has been sexually solicited online.
- ◆ Only 1 in 4 youth who received a sexual solicitation reported the incident to an adult
- ◆ A study by the NOP Research Group found that of the 4 million children aged 7 to 17 who surf the net, 29% would freely give out their home address and 14% would freely give out their email address if asked.
- ◆ According to the U.S. Department of Justice, there are 250,000 to 500,000 pedophiles in the United States, which equates to 1 pedophile in every 100-200 internet users.
- ◆ About 85% of Americans can be identified by their date of birth, zip code and gender.
- ◆ According to an I-Safe survey of children in grades 5 – 12, 1 in 10 are willing to meet an internet “friend” face to face and 8% actually did.

Characteristics of a Predator

- ◆ Computer Savvy
- ◆ College graduate
- ◆ Successful careers
- ◆ Married with children
- ◆ Upper middle class
- ◆ Age range: 35+
- ◆ Male – when women are involved they are usually an accomplice for a male.

What Predators are Looking For

- ◆ They want to know if both parents work or are divorce.
- ◆ If the child fits in at school and what classes they like.
- ◆ They look for kids who are vulnerable, spend a lot of time alone, have computer illiterate parents, and they don't fit in at school.
- ◆ After learning a child's interests and gaining their trust the predator then tries to get the child to meet in person.

Eluding Internet Predators

- ◆ Keep user names and profiles generic and anonymous.
- ◆ Never meet anyone in person who you met online.
- ◆ Avoid posting personal photos online - pictures can be altered to embarrass or humiliate.
- ◆ Always keep private information private. With just three pieces of personal information a predator can locate a potential victim. Ex: name, address, age, gender, school or phone numbers.
- ◆ Harmless questions can be harmful. Questions about school colors, participation, mascot, and events, and about the weather.
- ◆ Avoid calling people. Caller ID can give your location away.
- ◆ **PLACE THE FAMILY COMPUTER IN AN OPEN AREA.** Predators feel less comfortable communicating with children when they know there is a strong likelihood of a parent observing the conversation.

- ◆ Be aware of phone calls or mail deliveries from unfamiliar persons. Predators often call or send gifts to their potential victims.
- ◆ Be aware of strangers asking too many personal questions and trying to become friends quickly.
- ◆ Learn about the internet so you can communicate the potential dangers to your children.
- ◆ Remind children that online “friends” are still strangers.
- ◆ Keep the lines of communication open. Talk to your children about online predators and let them know they can come to you if they are ever put in an uncomfortable situation. If a child feels they will be punished or have computer privileges taken away, they will be less likely to tell a parent when something happens online.
- ◆ Install filtering software. This allows for parental controls on your computer.

Information Courtesy of:
I-Safe Inc. www.isafe.org
Internet Crimes Against Children
www.illinoisicac.org
Illinois Attorney General's Office
www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov

Geneva Police Department

20 Police Plaza
Geneva, Illinois 60134
Phone: 630-232-4736
Fax: 630-232-7711

www.geneva.il.us/pd/index.htm

Sergeant Nash
Officer VanDorn
Officer Sullivan

Internet Safety



Protect Yourself from Online Predators