

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

Sarnia Police Officer, Les Jones, recently gave a presentation on Internet Safety to our parents. He gave us many great tips, so we thought we should share the high points with everyone.

Things to remember and to tell your children:

Treat your password like your toothbrush. You don't share your toothbrush, so don't share your password!

“Geotagging” is a process of adding geographical identification to photographs, videos, and websites. It automatically embeds in photographs taken with a smartphone. Once photos are uploaded, people can find the origin of the photo. Therefore, *shut off the GPS on your phone*. Go to <http://www.lcanstalku.com> to find out how to turn off the GPS on your Smartphone.

Photos - Once a picture has been posted on the Internet, you can never totally take it back, so be careful what you post!

Facebook – Did you know that Facebook users must be a minimum of 13 years old? Did you know that 10% of adolescents’ “friends” on Facebook are not who they say they are? We need to tell our kids that they don't know (for sure) who they're talking to.

Parental Controls—What can we do?

- Educate ourselves
- Set clear rules and consequences
- Limit computer time
- Know your child's passwords and login names
- Use filtering software
(http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/Parental_Control_Solutions.pdf)
- Make sure that your computer is in a common area of the home (the bedroom is not a good place for a child's computer)
- Monitor webcam use
- Review online activities (e.g., check history)
- Encourage open communication
- Set parental controls – see Google search settings; YouTube Safety Setting; Parental controls on your computer, etc.

Net Lingo – Do you know it? Do you know what your kids are saying online? E.g., 459=I love you; MOS=Mom over shoulder. For a full list, go to: www.netlingo.com/top50/acronyms-for-parents.php

Cyberbullying – Generally, if it's against the law in the real world, it's against the law in the cyber world.

For more information and websites about Internet Safety, Google “Internet Safety” (some even include games for kids) or go to: <http://google.ca/familysafety>