

# Parent's guide to internet safety

[www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)

[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

[www.cyberangels.org](http://www.cyberangels.org)

[www.keepyourkidssafe.com/index2.htm](http://www.keepyourkidssafe.com/index2.htm)

[www.kidinnovation.com](http://www.kidinnovation.com)

Razzul internet browser controlled, pre-filtered, child-friendly

[http://dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/Child\\_Safety/](http://dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/Child_Safety/)

listing of internet safety resources, including some mentioned above

<http://search.nap.edu/netsafekids/>

excellent resource for understanding internet dangers and protective steps to take

**Congressional report quoted from [www.securitysoft.com/sss\\_news.html](http://www.securitysoft.com/sss_news.html)**

*This congressional report shows that parental controls do not protect against the dangers of peer-to-peer file sharing networks that are used by children and teens. It shows that using search terms popular with kids such as Pokemon, The Olsen Twins and Britney Spears produced hundreds of pornographic files with free X-rated photos and videos that have nothing to do with the pictures and videos the kids were searching for.*

*This Congressional report stated, "Even if children are not searching for pornography, on peer-to-peer networks, they are likely to be inundated with pornography as they use file-sharing programs." They did a search, just as a child or teenager would, using just three seemingly innocent words: "Pokemon," the "Olsen Twins," and "Britney Spears." Look at the files that came up containing free X-rated pictures and videos. 57% were pornographic, and 8 percent contained CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. So your child just wants a picture of their favorite rock star or sports hero, a song or a video, and they end-up looking at hundreds of X-RATED pornographic pictures or videos... FREE.*

<http://www.mommyguide.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=195>

good information with links to other sites, including NCMEC

[www.protectkids.org](http://www.protectkids.org)

good site for statistics, cases, and info on internet crimes against children, links to cases

[www.netsmartz.org/pdf/takechargestudy.pdf](http://www.netsmartz.org/pdf/takechargestudy.pdf)<http://www.netsmartz.org/pdf/takechargestudy.pdf>

Parents' Internet Monitoring Study (must have pdf viewer to read, i.e. Adobe Acrobat)

- 80% of Internet traffic is pornography related
- 50% of teens say they have seen pornography on the Internet
- 79% of these teens did so from their school or library
- 67% of these same teens did so from home
- 12 is the average age of a child's first experience with pornography

Our children are at a higher risk to be victims of Internet crimes than most parents realize. Don't be uninformed. Understand the scope of the problem, facts and figures to identify the benefits of childhood Internet activity and where your child may be in danger online.

- By the end of 1998, more than 40 percent of all American homes had computers, and 25 percent had Internet access. This trend is expected to continue. Children and teenagers are one of the fastest growing groups of Internet users. An estimated 10 million kids are online today. By the year 2002, this figure is expected to increase to 45 million, and by 2005 to 77 million.

**Youth Internet Safety Survey**

- Only 1/3 of the households with Internet access are proactively protecting their children with filtering or blocking software.
- 75% of children are willing to share personal information online about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services.

**eMarketer**

- About 25 percent of the youth who encountered a sexual approach or solicitation told a parent.

**Youth Internet Safety Survey**

- One in five U.S. teenagers who regularly log on to the Internet say they have received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the Web. Solicitations were defined as requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk, or to give personal sexual information.

**Crimes Against Children Research Center**

- One in 33 youth received an aggressive sexual solicitation in the past year. This means a predator asked a young person to meet somewhere, called a young person on the phone, and/or sent the young person correspondence, money, or gifts through the U.S. Postal Service.

**Youth Internet Safety Survey**

- 77% of the targets for online predators were age 14 or older. Another 22% were users ages 10 to 13.

**Crimes Against Children Research Center**

- 75 percent of the solicited youth were not troubled, 10 percent did not use chat rooms and 9 percent did not talk to strangers.

**Crimes Against Children Research Center**

- Only 25% of solicited children were distressed by their encounters and told a parent.

**Crimes Against Children Research Center**

- Only 17 percent of youth and 11 percent of parents could name a specific authority, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), CyberTipline, or an Internet service provider, to which they could report an Internet crime.

**Youth Internet Safety Survey**

## 'How I lured paedophiles online'



Rachel O'Connell: "I had to have regular counselling"

**How do paedophiles operate on the net? In our weekly Real Time series, Rachel O'Connell tells how she posed as a chatroom child.**

“I started investigating how paedophiles use the internet to get access to kids in 1996, as part of my PhD.

I first explored their newsgroups, and found a supportive virtual community exchanging fantasies and alleged experiences, and also child pornography.

Some of the technically sophisticated guys also shared information on how to avoid detection with those who weren't up to speed.

At the time, these newsgroups were relatively easy to find because they had obvious names. I won't tell you in case it sends the curious in for a look [and UK internet service providers have agreed to tighten controls on such sites].

### So lonely

The next logical step was to see how paedophiles groom children in chatrooms, so I posed as an eight, 10 or 12-year-old to see how I would be approached.

I usually gave out lines such as, 'My parents are always fighting' and 'I've moved to a new school' - the words of a child who's quite isolated.

In the time I spent online, I was approached by loads of men. It was really tough work - I had to have regular counselling, because it wasn't the type of thing I could talk about with my friends.

They go through a friendship-forming phase, in which they identify a target child - in this case, me - and pose as someone just a few years older.

They talk about whatever the child is interested in, be it online gaming or the band Steps. As with the start of any friendship, they say things like 'You sound really nice' and 'I like talking to you' to create a sense of trust.

Then they start asking things of a sexual nature - 'Have you ever been kissed' or 'Do you touch yourself?' - and may suggest an offline meeting.

This sounds pretty bad, until you remember that the child thinks they're talking to

### Chatroom advice

Ensure program saves chats

Trace IP addresses of online 'friends'

Think 'Would a real teenager say this?'

Don't reply if they make you uneasy

Don't give personal details or meet up



1996  
My research has moved on now - for my own sanity

another child who's slightly older.

Earlier this year, I worked with the Coronation Street writers developing the script for Gary, the man who stalks Sarah-Louise after meeting her in a chatroom.

They wanted advice on what he might say, how things might progress, and just how manipulative he could be.

Hence, when her parents drop her off to meet her new friend, he reassures them and they drive off thinking, 'Our daughter will be safe with this guy's son.'

### **Forewarned is forearmed**

My research has moved on now - mostly for my own sanity - and because I learned enough to put together an effective prevention programme for kids.

The best form of defence is to equip kids to gather evidence about the people they talk to online.

We've just run our first summer school on internet safety, to teach kids to run these checks routinely. But we don't preach to them. There's no point telling a 12-year-old not to do something, otherwise it'll become the most attractive thing in the world to do, ever.

Trying to groom kids online is a high-risk activity, and paedophiles exchange information about the children they talk to online. If they know a child is gathering IP addresses, then that child becomes a far less attractive target.”

**Rachel O'Connell works for the Cyberspace Research Unit at the University of Central Lancashire. For advice on how children can chat safely on the net, see the internet links near the top of the page on the right-hand side. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/1454357.stm>**



Coronation Street Sarah-Louise and mother Gail



Rachel offers advice on internet safety

1. Use the Internet with your kids. While you're spending time with them, you can help them to be safe and responsible online.
2. Teach kids never to give their personal information to people they meet online, especially in chat rooms and on bulletin boards.
3. Instruct your child never to plan a face-to-face meeting with online acquaintances, and to notify you if they are approached for an offline meeting.
4. Establish clear ground rules for Internet use for your family. Think about signing a Contract with your children that reflects those rules.
5. Tell your children not to respond if they receive offensive or dangerous e-mail, chat requests, or other communications, and to leave if they go to a web site that makes them uncomfortable.

## **Internet Safety Software**

### **1. Internet Filtering Software**

Software can be used to filter out harmful websites from being accessed on your computer. Net Nanny is a powerful program that does just that. It also restricts Internet access, monitors some online activity, protects personal information, blocks IRC chat and newsgroups, blocks search engines, and is customizable for individual users.

**For more detailed feature and ordering information, please visit the [Net Nanny website](#).**



### **2. Computer Monitoring Software**

Monitor your children's online activity using the latest technology available. When you are not there to be with them, there are solutions. ProtectKids.org recommends Online Recorder Software by Original Programs. The Online Recorder secretly runs under windows when your computer starts up and extracts text from Internet applications. It also records every keystroke on your computer without slowing it down or changing its performance.



**For more detailed feature and ordering information, please visit the [Original Programs website](#).**

### **3. Access Restriction Software**

The best way to block your child's access to the Internet at specific times is to install Access Control Software. It is customizable for different users and is password protected. With this software, you can make sure your children are not using the Internet when you're not around to supervise them.



[www.protectkids.org/solutions.htm](http://www.protectkids.org/solutions.htm)

## **Filtered Christian and Family Internet Service Providers**

**American Family Online** filtered internet service provides varying levels of service as an ISP (internet service provider) or as a filter for your current provider. <http://www.afo.net/index.htm>

**pkFamily** is a ministry of Promise Keepers. <http://www.pkfamily.com/>

**Integrity Online** claims to be the nation's largest filtered ISP. <http://www.integrity.com/>

**Christian-net** provides an ISP or filtering for your current ISP. [www.cnonline.net/default.asp](http://www.cnonline.net/default.asp)

**Family Fellowship** offers 5X high-speed dialup and filtering. [www.familyfellowship.com](http://www.familyfellowship.com)

There are plenty of other filtered ISPs and there is also accountability software such as *X3Watch* and *CovenantEyes*, which sends the addresses of internet sites you've visited to a chosen accountability partner. There is no way to turn off or "go around" this kind of software, so its benefits are plentiful.

For more information on internet safety, just type any of the following into your search engine:

*Internet safety*

*Parental software*

*Family internet*

*Children and the internet*

Or you can visit the sites at the beginning of this document and link to an endless list of sites and resources available to you and your family.

Although the internet may seem dangerous and scary, it is highly beneficial as well. Prohibiting its use is probably not the best course of action for your family or children, but a well-chosen ISP and/or filtering service, along with the basic rules of chatroom, e-mail, instant-messaging, and webpage monitoring can go a long way in protecting your family. Use prayer and wisdom in dealing with this, as with any, parenting decision.

Sex is the #1 searched for topic on the Internet. (Dr. Robert Weiss, Sexual Recovery Institute, Washington Times 1/26/2000)

One in five children who use computer chatrooms has been approached over the Internet by pedophiles. (Detective Chief Superintendent Keith Akerman, Telegraph.co.uk January 2002 )

89% of sexual solicitations were made in either chat rooms or Instant Messages. (Pew Study reported in JAMA, 2001)

13 million youth use Instant Messaging. (Pew Study reported in JAMA)

Nine out of 10 children aged between eight and 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet. In most cases, the sex sites were accessed unintentionally when a child, often in the process of doing homework, used a seemingly innocent sounding word to search for information or pictures. (London School of Economics January 2002)

**Among the 95% of all 15-17 year-olds who have ever gone online:**

- Seventy percent have accidentally stumbled across pornography online, 23% "very" or "somewhat" often.
- A majority (55%) of those who were exposed to pornography say they were "not too" or "not at all" upset by it, while 45% were "very" or "somewhat" upset.
- A third (33%) of those with home Internet access have a filtering technology in place there. Among the 76% of all 15-17 year-olds who have sought health information online:
- Nearly half (46%) say they have been blocked from non-pornographic sites by filtering technology.

26 popular children's characters, such as Pokemon, My Little Pony and Action Man, revealed thousands of links to porn sites. 30% were hard-core. (Envisional 2000)

44 percent of children polled have visited x-rated sites or sites with sexual content. Moreover, 43 percent of children said they do not have rules about Internet use in their homes. (Time/CNN Poll, 2000)

While 75% of parents say they know where children spend time online, the truth about kids' Internet habits show 58% of teens say they have accessed an objectionable Web site: 39 % offensive music, 25% sexual content and 20% violence. (Source: WebSense, USA Today, 10/10-12/99)

"Sex on the Net is like heroin, it grabs them and takes over their lives. And it's very difficult to treat because the people affected don't want to give it up." -- Dr. Mark Schwartz, Masters & Johnson Institute, St. Louis

The Internet is Never before in the history of telecommunications media in the United States has so much indecent (and obscene) material been so easily accessible by so many minors in so

many American homes with so few restrictions. -- U.S. Department of Justice, Post Hearing Memorandum of Points and Authorities, 1996

"Sex on the Net is just so seductive and it's so easy to stumble upon it, people who are vulnerable can get hooked before they know it." -- Dr. Jennifer Schneider, physician, Tucson

"In my clinical practice, I have treated both children and adults who have been unequivocally and repeatedly injured by exposure to pornography. If anyone still has doubts about pornography's effects, I would suggest that he or she get invited to some meetings of "Sexaholics Anonymous" and personally witness the pain and trauma first hand. From "Pornography's Effects on Adults and Children." -- Victor B. Cline, Ph.D.

600 American males and females of high school age and above were interviewed about their "out in real life involvement with pornography." 91% of the males and 82% of the females admitted having been exposed to X-rated, hard-core pornography. Two-thirds of the males and 40% of the females reported wanting to try out some of the behaviors they had witnessed. -- 1986 Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, study by Dr. Jennings Bryant

"Pornography is one of the largest and fastest growing segments of the Internet." -- Christopher Young, President/C.O.O., Cyveillance

"... in April 2001, there were 22.9 million unique visitors to porn sites." -- Nielsen/Net Ratings, Inc.

"Child abusers have been known to seek out unsuspecting victims by posting seemingly innocuous messages in computer chat rooms." -- BBC News, June 16, 1999

According to recent Forrester Research figures, pornography sites generate \$700 million to \$1 billion a year in gross revenue. -- Forrester Research

Estimates for the number of X-rated sites on the net range from 20,000 to 7 million. -- CNET.com, "Sex on the Web," April 28, 1999

87% of girl-child molesters and 77% of boy-child molesters studied admitted to regular use of hard-core pornography. -- Report on the Use of Pornography by Sexual Offenders, Dr. William Marshall for Canada Federal Department of Justice, 1993

Experts in Internet crime estimate there are about 23,000 Websites dedicated to pedophilia.

A primary pornography consumer group is boys between ages 12 - 17. -- Attorney General's Final Report on Pornography, 1986

Generates approximately \$1 billion annually with growth projections to \$5-7 billion over the next 5 years, barring unforeseen change (NRC Report 2002)

74% of adult commercial sites display free teaser porn images on homepage (Child-proofing on the World Wide Web: A survey of adult web servers 2001, (NRC Report 2002)

345% increase in child pornography sites between 2-2001- 7/2001 (N2H2, 8/01)

60% of all website visits are sexual in nature (MSNBC Survey 2000)

25 million Americans visit cybersex sites between 1-10 hours per week (MSNBC Survey 2000)

The U.S. Customs Service estimates that there are more than 100,000 websites offering child pornography - which is illegal, worldwide (Red Herring Magazine, 1/18/02)

9 in 10 kids 8-16 yrs. have viewed porn online, mostly accidentally while doing homework (UK News Telegraph, NOP Research Group, 1/07/02)

Study of 4 million children aged 7-17 who surf the net, 29% would freely give out their home address and 14% would freely give out their email address if asked (NOP Research Group, 2002)

Adult industry says some traffic is 20-30% children (NRC Report, 2002)

26 popular children's characters, such as Pokemon, My Little Pony and Action Man, revealed thousands of links to porn sites. 30% were hard-core. (Envisional 2000)

89% of sexual solicitations of youth were made in either chat rooms or Instant Messages (Pew Study reported in JAMA, 2001)

1 in 5 youths received sexual solicitation or approach in last year (NCMEC, 2000)

Cyber-sex is the crack cocaine of sexual addiction. (Dr. Robert Weiss, Sexual Recovery Institute, Washington Times 1/26/2000)

Cyber-sex reinforces and normalizes sexual disorders. (Dr. Robert Weiss, Sexual Recovery Institute, Washington Times 1/26/2000)

Cyber-sex is a public health hazard exploding because very few are recognizing it as such or taking it seriously. (MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study; Associated Press Online, 2/29/2000)

57 million Americans have Internet access. (MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, 2000)

25 million Americans visit cyber-sex sites between 1-10 hours per week. Another 4.7 million in excess of 11 hours per week. (MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, Washington Times, 1/26/2000)

At least 200,000 Internet users are hooked on porn sites, X-rated chat rooms or other sexual materials online. (MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, Associated Press Online, 2/29/2000)