



Topic: Managing Technology

What We Need to Know

FaceBook, YouTube. Text Messaging. These and other social networking sites have become the de facto way for many kids to connect with each other. According to research data from the 2010 Pew Internet and American Life Project, 73% of wired American teens now use social networking websites, a significant increase from previous surveys. Just over half of online teens (55%) used social networking sites in November 2006 and 65% did so in February 2008.

The prevalence of pornography on the Internet is an issue that parents need to be aware of, as well. According to a 2002 report from the London School of Economics, 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.

It is especially to address self-control and sensitivity, as the Internet can foster antisocial behavior at a time when kids are just beginning to learn socially accepted mores.

Conversation Starters

Some people call kids your age “The Internet Generation.” Do you believe that is an accurate phrase? What term might you use to describe your generation?

What else would you do instead of all the time you spend online?

We know there might be a natural curiosity, but why is cyberporn so dangerous?

Resources

[My Internet Safety Coach](#)