

THE **FIVE** DANGEROUS TRENDS
CONCERNING
KIDS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET



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Prologue

The Five Dangerous Trends Concerning Kids, Technology and the Internet contains insight, facts, resources, tools, guidelines and tips you need to protect your kids online.

Inside are real stories and challenges parents and families face for some of the most popular technologies your children are using. This collection of work is your *one-stop* resource for education, awareness and prevention.

How effective are the actions you take to protect your kids online? Our mission is to help you make your child's interactions with technology safer.

Technology is a resource, but mostly an outlet to socialization, and not always are children's interactions negative. The Internet offers educational benefits for children on a wide range of topics including history, current events, government, international issues, math, science and health. There are websites that provide support for kids in crisis. Many organizations make positive contributions to society through the valuable information they provide online.

The Internet provides kids with resources to learn and can provide alternative sources to help them deal with their everyday lives. Kids now have the means to reach out to the world at their fingertips. They can communicate and socialize with absolutely anyone.

The Five Dangerous Trends Concerning Kids, Technology and the Internet provides adults with information, tips, warnings and resources to help you in your plan of action. Thank you for partnering with us as we work to protect children from negative online encounters.

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Cyberbullying, Cyberharassment and Cyberstalking

Bullying Left the School Grounds and Entered Your Home

“**Y**ou’re fat and no one likes you.” “There has been talk and all of us think you’re gay - are you?” “Everybody hates you, so why don’t you just go away?” “This world would be a better place without you!”

Parents, has anyone ever said these words to you? There may be a good chance someone has said these words to your kids in some variation in real life or on the Internet. Cyberbullying is brutal and it has no place in our children’s lives. We are working hard every day to

eradicate this type of behavior and save our kids from the hurt and anguish it causes in young people.

It is no longer enough to tell ourselves it’s just a part of growing up and that our kids won’t be harmed by this type of hate speech. We cannot continue to just assume they will grow up to be smart, healthy, well-adjusted young adults with a high self esteem.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is a behavior that occurs when a perpetrator attempts to engage, intimidate and ultimately cause emotional distress using technology

TIP

Always have the computer located in a common area of your home.

TIP

Have family logons and passwords.

to seek out a target. With the growing number of kids online having greater access to each other through social networking websites and through other electronic devices, this trend is spiraling upward.

According to a 2006 statistical report by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 1 out of 11 youth have been exposed to threatening or offensive behavior online. Kids, tweens and teens are likely to be affected by *cyberbullying* at some time, whether as a victim or as the perpetrator.

Cyberbullying methods can range from posting derogatory comments or embarrassing information on websites, blogs, or social networking websites to sending hateful, cruel, or mean text messages via cell phone, e-mail or instant messages.

Cyberbullying Has No Boundaries

Cyberbullies may transform pictures and videos to cause embarrassment, damage reputations or just upset their intended victims. Cyberbullies may also use deception and pretend they are someone else (including the victim) in order to interfere in the victim's life by using friends, or even complete strangers. Cyberbullies want to totally humiliate their victims and will purposely go after them with intent to cause mischief, insult and emotional distress.



Cyberbullies can use technology as their tool of choice any time, day or night. Time is not a factor in the information manipulation and process. Since technology is a socially

“Denise’s book is a very informative read. It’s exactly what parents need to know when it comes to keeping their children safe while online, or just in life itself. In a time when we rely so much on technology in our day to day lives, it’s so essential that we ensure this technology is used for good. Denise’s book details the ways technology can harm our kids. I would highly recommend this book to any parent, community group, school or faith-based organization who has the best interest of our children at heart. WAY TO GO DENISE!!!”

– *Derek VanLuchene, President ryanunited.org, Helena, MT*

“In spite of, or perhaps because of, my many years of experience in eCommerce and the Internet, every time my daughter logged onto my PC, I was a nervous wreck. Thanks to Denise’s insight and her invaluable suggestions, I was able to implement safeguards to help protect my daughter from the dangers of the Internet, ease my mind and sleep easier. Thanks Denise!”

– *Rick Garvey, eCommerce Professional & Parent, Newport Beach, California*

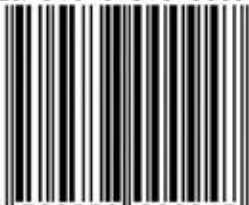
Parents and teachers have been discussing “stranger danger” with children for years. Denise helps you take that conversation a step further. In a technologically advanced society, children are vulnerable to online predators, or “virtual strangers,” who have the potential to harm them psychologically and, eventually, physically. Do your kids a favor by educating yourself about potential online dangers. This safeguard requires little investment on your part; in terms of protection, you will yield high dividends!

– *Nancy Schneider, Ed.D, Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO*

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