

Online Predators

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Introduction

- An online predator can be:
 - A pedophile
 - Identity thieves
 - A mentally unstable person

They all have one thing in common, they use the internet to prey on children or the elderly.

How Do Online Predators Work?

- *Establish conversations with children through:
 - chat rooms
 - I.M.'s
 - E-mail
 - discussion boards
- *Look for vulnerable victims
- *Listen and sympathize with children
- *Gradually introduce sexual content into conversation

Which Young People Are At Risk?

- *Adolescents
 - *New to online activity
 - *Rebellious
 - *Isolated
 - *Lonely
 - *Curious
 - *Confused about sexual i.d.
 - *Naive about online relationships

How Can Parents Prevent Online Predators?

- Use parental control software
- Be sure your child follows age limit software for each social networking web site
- Do not allow young children to utilize chat rooms, as children get older monitor the chat areas that they participate in. Do not allow them to utilize any private chat areas.
- Keep the family computer in an easily visible area of the household, not in a child's room
- Inform children not to respond to any e-mails or instant messages from strangers
- Remember the offender is always at fault, never the child

How Can A Child Reduce Being Victimized?

- Being aware not to download an image from unknown sources
- Having filters installed by a parent for a child's online use
- Make sure to tell a parent/adult about any online encounters that make them uncomfortable
- Keep personal information to themselves
- Stop any communication between themselves and an individual that makes them uncomfortable

Why We Chose this Topic:

- It is important to spread awareness because this occurs all the time.
- Almost all children have access to internet, and are more likely to become victims.
- Parents have less time to monitor their children's computer time.

For example:

"In February 2000, a thirty-three-year-old man made contact with a twelve-year-old girl in a teenage Internet chat-room. This first contact in a chat-room led to emails every day over a two-month period and then to regular conversations on a mobile phone. In this way the girl was groomed from this initial chat-room contact to the point where she actually met the man offline and to the point where she was sexually assaulted."

<http://www.chatdanger.com/chat/truestory.aspx>

<http://www.chatdanger.com/>

Sources

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