

Camp Lincoln/Camp Lake Hubert Parent Tips Sheet **Regarding Your Child and Their Online Activity**

Children today spend much of their time online and as an advocate for children and their safety, we recommend that you as parents be knowledgeable of their online activities. While your children may balk at your efforts to supervise them or see their online profile, we also know children listen to their parent's advice and concern. We have gathered information from many sources and are providing you with a summary of that information as a way of supporting your effort to ensure your child's continued well-being, even outside of Camp Lincoln and Camp Lake Hubert.

General Tips

1. If you are not already doing so, please make it your business to become familiar with your child's computer and the Internet. You cannot protect your children unless you know what is out there. If you want further help, contact www.masterteacher.com/index.html.
2. Try to avoid leaving your child online for long periods of time without checking in with them or supervising them. Doing so may result in activities that are risky, over-stimulating or inappropriate that you may not be aware of.
3. Set rules around the use of the computer and the Internet. You have rules about other aspects in your home. Kids who think their parents don't care often take higher risks than children who know their parents are interested, knowledgeable and involved.
4. Think about the location of your computer your child generally uses to go online. One significant question online predators ask children and Teens is the location of their computer. Predators are emboldened if they sense that the children they are communicating with online are not being supervised by an adult.
5. Inform your children of the dangers of the Internet and tell them that you intend to supervise or oversee their online activity. Then follow through on a regular basis! The following three items are specific examples of things you can do.
6. Check the browser history on your child's computer. This way you can see what sites they are visiting. Microsoft Explorer, AOL and Netscape all have history tabs or "My Favorite Places" that show where your child has been.
7. Check downloaded files by checking the directory that programs are downloaded into. This is another way you can see what your child has been up to on his computer.
8. Ask your child if they have an online social networking profile. To be in the know, you will have to say like "MySpace or Facebook!" If they are being coy, they are probably hiding something from you. If they have one, look at it as the pictures and text may tell you about what your child has been up to.

Safety Tips for Teens Online

1. Avoid giving out your last name, phone number, address, name of your school, where you hang out or the sports teams you are on.
2. Use the privacy features on your service.
3. Avoid meeting people in person who you have met on the Internet that you do not know. Let your parents know and take some friends along if you do decide to do this.
4. Be careful of what you post online as pictures and text are open for the world to see.
5. Remember that anyone can pose as anyone else online. Unless you are positive of the person's identity, be skeptical.

What to Tell Your Child If They Are Threatened or Bullied Online

1. Do not respond or retaliate. Doing so may only make matter worse or get you into trouble.
2. If you can, save the message on your hard drive and print out a copy. Then close the message or program.
3. Tell a parent or a trusted adult immediately.
4. If it is someone from camp, please call the Camp Director.
5. If necessary, call your Internet Service Provider (e.g., AOL, Yahoo, G-Mail, etc.)
6. If necessary, call the local police especially in cases of a threat on your life, sexual advance, etc.
7. Other Resources: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.ncmec.org) and (www.ryanpatrickhalligan.com)