

# KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE ON THE INTERNET

## 95% of youth ages 12 to 17 are online

As a parent or guardian, you can provide the first line of defense in keeping youth safe on the Internet from:

**Cyberbullying**

**Exposure to inappropriate material**

**Online predators**

**Revealing too much personal information**

**The Internet is always changing** – Stay well-informed about current issues to understand what your children are experiencing on and off the Internet.

If your children are using social media, instant messaging, using webcams, or blogging, help them use these tools safely by learning how to use them yourself.

**Children whose parents and guardians regularly talk to them about personal safety are more likely to exhibit responsible behavior on their own.**

**Because it's mobile** – Make sure to monitor cell phones, laptops, and gaming devices. Know who is connecting with your children online.

**Online Gaming** – Know what games children are playing and where they are playing. You may be supervising your home console, but where else are children gaming? Do they play on mobile devices? At friends' homes?

Rating sites like ESRB.org (Entertainment Software Rating Board) and CommonSenseMedia.org can help you decide if a game is appropriate.

Learn safety features. For example, does the game have reporting features or moderators? Can players be blocked?

Ask with whom children are gaming. Learn the usernames of anyone your children play with frequently.

Discuss what information children are sharing. Tell them not to share personal information like credit card and phone numbers.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children hosts a useful website on Internet safety for parents and guardians. The site has links for teens and tweens as well.

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

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exploITation  
**OUT**

**More useful resources are listed on the reverse side. ▶**

# WHERE TO GET HELP

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

If you know someone you believe may be a victim of exploitation, please reach out to the resources below.

Ontario County Hotline  
1-800-247-7273

National Human Trafficking  
Resource Hotline  
1-888-373-7888  
or  
Text "Help" to BeFree (233733)

National Center for Missing and  
Exploited Children  
1-800-843-5678

### **Download Ontario County's Stamp It Out App!**

It's free and loaded with helpful information.

*Now available where smart phone apps are offered.*

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