



BE VIGILANT AGAINST ONLINE PREDATORS

With the accessibility of the Internet today, children and youth can be easy targets for online scams and predators as they might take what they see at face value.

Online predators usually search social networks and target child-oriented screen names. They try to gain the trust of the user through a process called "grooming", which includes the following ways:

Looking for child-oriented screen names

Striking up a conversation that interest the child in developing an online relationship



Showing interest in the user and gaining their trust through themed chat rooms based on specific interests such as anime or comic books.

Searching through social networking site profiles



Building them up by complimenting them



Worried that your child is at risk online?

Here are some signs to look out for:

Spending a lot of time online (especially at night)



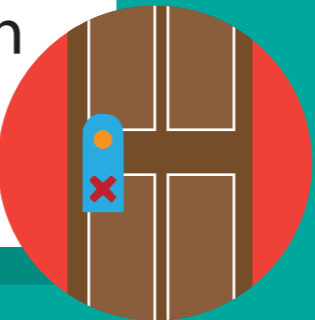
Finding pornography on the computer



Receiving phone calls, mail or gifts from people you do not know



Withdrawal from normal activities such as family gatherings



Switching or closing screens quickly when a family member approaches



Using a separate/different account for e-mail or social networking sites



Be S.U.R.E. when you are looking for more information on online predators or child safety. Generally, website domains ending with the following are more credible:

- .edu Educational ✓
- .gov Government ✓
- .mil Military ✓
- .org Organization ✓



References :

- <http://www.familysafecomputers.org/predators.htm>
- <https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide/parent-guide>
- <http://www.nlb.gov.sg/sure/snuffing-out-online-predators/>
- <http://www.internetsafety101.org/grooming.htm>

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