

PROTECTING YOUR KIDS ONLINE

TAKE CHARGE

Set some ground rules.

Establish basic guidelines like when your kids can go online, what sites they can visit, and how many texts they can send a month, so everyone is on the same page.

Research before you buy.

Did you know that handheld games can connect to the Internet or that many laptops have built-in webcams? Understand what technology you're bringing into your home.

Don't just sit there - REPORT!

If your kids are dealing with cyberbullies or potential predators, report them to the website, cell phone service, law enforcement, or www.cybertipline.com.

MONITOR

Supervise Internet use.

If you can see what your kids are doing, they're less likely to get in trouble.

Safeguards ≠ Safe Kids.

Installing CIA-level monitoring software on your kids' computers does not guarantee they'll be safe online. Technology can't replace your time and attention as a parent or guardian.

Don't go overboard.

It's smart to keep an eye on your kids' social networking profiles, but it's never cool when you post embarrassing messages or pictures to their page.

COMMUNICATE

Talk to your kids; they're not as mysterious as you think.

Your kids might not tell you everything, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't ask. Get involved so you're not the last to know.

Challenge them to a duel.

If you have kids who like to play video or computer games, ask if you can play, too. When you respect their interests, they're more likely to respect your rules.

Don't pull the plug.

Taking away your kids' Internet access because they've done something wrong doesn't solve the problem. Talk to them about protecting themselves and respecting others online.

SIGNS AND INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN YOUTH

Human trafficking is the compelled service of others for profit.

Traffickers use violence, threats, deception and other manipulative tactics to force people to engage in commercial sex or provide labor or services against their will.

Signs and Indicators:

*It is important to look at the context of the whole child

- Presence of a controlling, abusive or older adult
- Continued curfew violations
- Disappearing for blocks of time
- Possession of cash or gifts that cannot be explained
- Chronically running away
- Poor academic status due to low or no school attendance
- Physical exhaustion from working long hours with no apparent control of money earned
- Unusual knowledge of work-related issues such as how to clean or cook, or activities related to farming and the care of animals
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Fearful or anxious behavior
- Inconsistent stories
- References to working long hours, poor pay, or abusive bosses
- Unclear about family relationships

Source: Ohio Child Welfare Training Program/Institute for Human Services

If you suspect a child is being trafficked:

- call Ohio's Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at **855-O-H-CHILD** (855-642-4453);
- call **911** if the child is in immediate danger; or
- you can learn more about human trafficking and report suspected cases to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **1-888-373-7888**.

Visit **www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov** for additional resources.



Visit the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website at **www.missingkids.org** or Polaris Project at **polarisproject.org** for more information.