

Online Safety & Digital Ethics: Keeping Kids Safe, Smart & Responsible Online

The Carroll School

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Overview/Agenda

- Defining the problem
 - ◆ The current online environment and inherent risks
 - ◆ Our LD children and the internet
- What are we doing at Carroll?
- What can you do at home?

"The Net -Effect"

- The Internet is not "the problem," but there are certainly ways in which it changes the equation – for all of us, regardless of age. These include:
 - * Persistence & searchability: the Net as a permanent, searchable archive
 - * Replicability: the ability to copy and paste from anywhere on the Net, to anywhere online
 - * Scalability: high potential visibility well beyond the audience you had in mind
 - * Invisible audiences: never really knowing who's seeing, reading or watching what you post
 - * Blurring of public and private: an extension of invisible audiences because boundaries aren't clear – private from whom?

Danah Boyd, *Taken Out of Context: American Teen Sociality in Networked Places*

<http://www.connectsafely.org/Commentaries-Staff/online-safety-30-empowering-and-protecting-youth.html>

Digital Natives

- Technology and the internet are the world that our children exist.
- We adults are digital immigrants.

Web 1.0 to Web 2.0

- Web 1.0 was the one-way web...a digital library of information available at our fingertips. The information was created by others, but was read-only.
- Web 2.0 is the two-way, read / write web. Anyone can create, anyone can comment. It is also the conception of social networking.

What is out there now?

- Social Networking sites - Facebook, MySpace, etc. People create profiles and share information with “friends.” Also a vehicle to create and share content (Flickr, YouTube, etc.)
- Blogs - The new journalism. People create content based on fact, fiction, opinion, whatever they want. Others can comment.
- Wikis - “anyone can add” space. Wikipedia is an example.
- Podcasts - Blogs with audio and / or video, consumed on demand.

Social Networking - Not an Evil Term

- Teens gather online to meet with friends
- Most ignore strangers and adults
- Most go online to do good things, not cause harm
- Physically safe
- Develop identities
- Develop 21st Century Skills - creativity, collaboration, online communication

What are the threats?

- Cyberbullying
- Inappropriate Sharing
- Sexting
- Fraud and Identity Theft
- Predators & Stalkers
- Perception and Misunderstanding

Cyberbullying

- Bullying has always existed, now it can be done anonymously which presents a new set of dangers and challenges.
- Definition of cyberbullying ranges from incidents of harassment and humiliation to overt threats.
- www.stopcyberbullying.org

Sexting

- Sharing nude or compromising photographs / videos via internet or cell phone.
- Kids naively think of it as flirting or private...nothing is private!
- Now being considered a serious sex crime. Several cases have resulted in teens being charged and becoming registered sex offenders.
- The sharing or forwarding of any picture of minors seen as distribution of child pornography.

LD Kids Online

- http://www.ldonline.org/article/Online_Safety_for_Children_with_LD
- Difficulties with expressive and receptive languages presents a larger issue when communicating online - LD children often misrepresent their thoughts and/or misperceive the intent of others.
- Students struggle with social expectations online...patience, intent, evaluation of information

Carroll's Efforts

- Implementing direct instruction on issues with internet safety and digital ethics.
- Campus network filtering blocks inappropriate sites, as well as specifically deemed sites (Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, etc.)
- iSite cameras disabled in MacBooks.
- MacBook parental controls automatically logs students off the computer between 10pm and 6am.
- Teachers using technology more and more in the classroom so direct instruction of participating appropriately online will occur.

What to do at home?

- Two components to safety at home:
 - ◆ Technical options - filtering, blocking, etc.
 - ◆ Discuss, Engage and Teach

Technical Option 1

- Filter at the router
 - ◆ Contact your internet service provider and ask for their options / suggestions.
 - ◆ Purchase a special router such as Home Network Defender.
 - ◆ OpenDNS - a free software for router or computer filter for both Mac and PC.

Technical Option 2

- Filter and monitor using software available for purchase
- Several software options available
 - ◆ NetNanny.com
 - ◆ SafeEyes
 - ◆ K9 Web Protection

Technical Option 3

- Kidzui - internet browser for kids 13 & under
 - ◆ Designed for kids so extremely helpful in research and teaching kids to navigate the web for data collection
 - ◆ Kids can share content with kids but cannot email, chat or text - and parents can approve/decline shares
 - ◆ Parent controls that sends a weekly report to parents detailing where children have been, allows for blocking of sites and blocking of friends.

Engage, Discuss & Teach

- Help kids maintain privacy
 - ◆ Set safe passwords - make sure they are 6 to 8 characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols, using upper and lowercase...do not spell a word.
 - ◆ Never share passwords with ANYONE, even best friends.
 - ◆ Set privacy settings on social networking sites.
 - ◆ Once it is out there, can't get it back.

Engage, Discuss & Teach

- Develop healthy online identities
 - ◆ Kids love to create...allow them to but ensure they are doing so correctly and safely. Join them in their creations.
 - ◆ Whatever is posted online is open to the world and does not go away...do not allow Facebook photos to be tagged.
 - ◆ Help develop a sense of what is appropriate to post and why...ThinkB4UClick!
 - ◆ Do not make engagement adversarial, but don't back down either.
 - ◆ Get accounts on all the sites they are on and monitor their activity.
 - ◆ Do not let them think anything they do is private, including where they connect.
 - ◆ Maintain passwords to all of your children's accounts.

Resources

- <http://www.connectsafely.org/>
- <http://www.wiredsafety.org/index.html>
- <http://www.common sense.com/internet-safety-guide/>
- <http://www.getnetwise.org/>
- <http://www.family safe computers.org/index.htm>
- <http://www.webwisekids.org/>
- <http://www.family safe media.com/index.html>
- <http://knowwheretheygo.org/>
- <http://www.symantec.com/norton/familyresources/index.jsp>
- <http://www.teenchatdecoder.com/>