

YELLO DYNO'S ANTI-VICTIMIZATION SPECIAL REPORT 5

YELLO DYNO'S GUIDE TO INTERNET SAFETY

INVESTIGATING SITES YOURSELF

Let's face the hard facts. We hear stories of child molesters in chat rooms posing as teens to lure our children. Is this true? Yes. Of course this is not always the case, but it does happen.

Understanding the enemy gives us the power to protect our children from them. There is an organization that supports molesting children. They are highly organized and vocal about their beliefs.

Parents John Walsh and Maureen Kanka never knew about this group until it was too late for their children.

NAMBLA, North American Man Boy Love Association, believes that it is natural to have sex with children. It is active in changing legislation to lower the age of consent and is trying to change the view of this behavior to a freedom of choice issue rather than a crime. Parents John Walsh and Maureen Kanka (mother of Megan) never knew about this group until it was too late for their children. They both tell of their shock to learn that such a group exists.

Not only does it exist, it has a Web site you can visit. The organization does not break the "law." It provides support through the Internet to child molesters who would normally find no avenue of support for their behavior. They believe they are fighting a historic battle to free children to be able to choose to participate in these relationships. They seem to overlook that these are not two consenting adults but a child and an adult. Their philosophy can be viewed at NAMBLA's site at <http://www.nambla.org/>. There are no inappropriate pictures on this site.

The need to teach your child the "street smarts" of cyberspace is obvious.

(see "Investigating Sites," page 2)

CHILD PREDATORS HAVE FOUND AN UNGUARDED PLAYGROUND: THE INTERNET

Child predators have found an unguarded playground on the Internet. Since it may be years before law enforcement can effectively patrol the millions of Internet highways, protecting children is in the hands of parents and schools. Literally over night, cyberspace has become a street in our town that children can walk down without our knowledge. With a click of a key, they could walk into a striptease joint, an X-rated movie or be charmed

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by a child predator in a chat room. In the past, our children did not usually encounter such options until they had the mental and emotional maturity to cope. State laws required that they be at least 18 years old to enter these adult establishments. In cyberspace our children are being lured as early as they can use a mouse.

Our first line of defense as parents is to educate ourselves. Our second line of defense is to educate our children. Knowledge is like a lamppost that is put up in a dark alley. The criminals scurry away in fear of detection.

There are easy steps that we as parents can take to learn more about the Web and prevent online dangers: First, begin by increasing your own computer literacy. You might even have your computer-savvy child escort you through cyberspace.

You would be stunned at what is available to your child under seemingly innocent searches for animation or children's story book titles, like "Little Women." I assure you, you would be shocked at what this title of a famous literary work that your daughter might be researching for school brings up.

No word blocks are going to stop this request, and the law doesn't allow anyone to put in print what will appear in front of her eyes. The sites that would be banned by parents are the sites (see "Child Predators," page 2)



That is certainly enough to let you know that the Internet needs parental involvement and that the need to teach your child the "street smarts" of cyberspace is obvious. Now, as parents, let's step back to our adolescence and remember those challenging years. Peer acceptance was so important and those "popular kids" just had it "so good." So when the Internet comes up in discussions and the sites that would be banned by parents are discussed, what's the cool thing to do? Go look.



WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

1. Pick a screen name that will attract the kind of friends you would like. Don't use a name that is negative, belittling or provocative.
2. Only send pictures with your parent's permission.
3. Tell your parents if you encounter inappropriate or offensive messages. Never respond to these messages.
4. Never give your password online.
5. Don't tell anyone your exact age; just say you are under 18. Be smart and do not give your name, address, phone number, parent's work address/phone number or the name or location of your school.
6. If your child wants to meet an online friend in person you must be present.

being discussed by sixth, seventh and eighth-graders, who are naturally curious about their bodies and sex as they go through all the changes of puberty.

Remember that teens want to belong. Group peer pressure and the sexual bombardment from the media could lead your child to a site he or she will regret.

Some curious boy is going to go look at pictures at some point. Don't think your child is the exception. Explain that curiosity is natural. Tell your child about pornography. If you don't, some school-mate will. Who would you rather have educate your child? Let your child know that the pornographic sites on the net are not examples of a loving relationship but rather expressions of people filled



Carmen confronts Mr. Charming in his office. — Scene from *Tricky People!* Video

with pain. Also let them know that these images hurt the mind and once they are in the mind they will always be there.

This story from an old Readers Digest is a wonderful way to explain to children why they might want to wait. A young girl asked her father a question and she was too young to understand the answer. He pointed to his packed suitcase for his business trip and asked her to put it in the car for him. She laughed and said it was way too heavy for her to lift. He said, "It is the same with your question. The answer is too heavy for you to carry right now, but I will be glad to answer it when you are older."

The need to teach your child the street smarts of cyberspace is obvious. As is age appropriate, discuss what your child might encounter. Many Internet carriers offer blocks to keep kids out of adult Web sites, but this is not a complete solution. A computer-literate child can break through a block in less than 15 minutes. If you don't believe me, ask a few of your child's friends who are really into computers. Even if you have blocks on your computer, do your child's friends have blocks on their computers?

It is vital to remember that child predators traditionally prey on the most vulnerable children. Their approach on the Web is the same as in real life. They look for children who are in need of attention, who have low self-esteem, are loners or are uneasy with social

skills. Children whose parents both work full time or are going through a divorce are often good candidates.

Child molesters are superb listeners. Why? Because they are so obsessed with luring children. The hunt, known as "grooming," is almost as thrilling to some predators as the conquest. They artfully transfer the child's attachment from his or her parents to themselves. Once they have the child's confidence, they masterfully use the child's natural curiosity about sex to lead them into forbidden discussions and images. By establishing a series of secrets that are too difficult to share with parents, the child becomes trapped.

Remember, you have your child's best interest at heart so you may need to be somewhat of a detective. The Internet is a fascinating super highway to travel with many windows filled with amazing knowledge from around the world. Just be sure you don't leave your child unchaperoned or let him drive too early. With your support your children have an exciting opportunity that we could not even imagine having as children.

RED ALERTS:

PARENTS SHOULD WATCH FOR THESE SIGNS

1. If your child is becoming removed from the family.
2. If he or she spends excessive amounts of time online, particularly with one person, one chat room or one group.
3. If she mentions how her Internet friend is more understanding than you are.
4. If your child doesn't want to share information about people and messages he has received online.
5. If you enter the room and the computer screen suddenly goes dark.
6. If your child uses an unusual number of discs to retrieve information and/or is hiding discs, it may mean that adult images are being downloaded or secret correspondence is being saved.
7. If your child is online late at night.



A NEW WEB SITE APPEARS EVERY 22 SECONDS, MORE THAN 3,900 NEW SITES EVERY DAY. TODAY AT LEAST 85 OF THOSE NEW SITES WILL BE SELLING COMMERCIAL PORNOGRAPHY.

*WebChaperone Fact Sheet,
Webco International.*

SOLUTIONS FOR PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN

1. Knowledge replaces fear with strength and confidence. Cutting kids off from the Web won't work. It is too powerful. It is an exciting and incredible educational resource that you will want for your children. Spend time with your child online. Just as you chose when your children first rode a bike and will decide when they will drive, you'll want to be there to guide them through the virtual world. So arm yourself and your child with knowledge.
2. Keep communication open. Parents who have used The Yello Dyno Program since their children were young have found that one Yello Dyno Rule has kept the door of communication open even when their children become teen-agers: "In our family we don't keep secrets that make us feel unsafe or uncomfortable." You will be amazed over time at how many situations fit into that category! If you add this to your family "do's" now, be ready to listen! You're more likely to hear when your children encounter disturbing situations in all areas of life. They will most likely include you for support and for answers when they encounter embarrassing or disturbing information on the net. Upsetting things happen. Help your children learn how to deal with the problem. Help them learn the proper solution rather than taking
3. Work together. Teens are learning how to be independent, so don't be surprised if they process the information first and come to you a few days or even a week later for your input. Remind them that if they encounter someone in a chat room who makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, they should tell you. Together you can notify the service provider.
4. Watch the clock. Limit the time your kids spend on the Internet just as you do TV and time spent on the phone. What you want is a well-rounded individual, and moderation is the key. Also remember that time at home is a good stabilizing time for kids, but if they are in other worlds through electronic media, i.e. Internet, TV, video games and phones, they are not "at home" or there with you.
5. Monitor activity. Because our children are sitting right in our homes, it doesn't seem like they could be in danger. Since there is no legal structure that ensures honesty, truth and information that will not corrupt the minds of naive children, do not underestimate what they can encounter. With children under 16, keep the computer in areas where it is easy for you to supervise, or make a point of casually visiting your teen unexpectedly when he is on the net.



Children learning to be alert for Tricky People by playing a Yello Dyno game.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE SCREEN NAMES:

A MOM'S TRUE STORY

When my daughter was 14 years old and wanted to start going into chat rooms, I joined her for her first voyage. She was quite excited. I asked her what screen name she would use. Having just seen the latest Batman movie, she picked the name "Poison Ivy 14" after one of the characters. I wasn't happy with her choice and certainly didn't like her including her age, but I knew it was an innocent choice and several others had their age after their names in the chat room. This was my opportunity to be there with her and help her learn.

I didn't tell her there was another character by that name. In fact there are several R-rated movies named Poison Ivy. Each movie is about a teenage girl, Poison Ivy, who uses sex to

wreak havoc, including seducing older men. What a choice of names she had picked!

No sooner was she on and chatting away with several "unknowns," than she began to receive particular attention from one man. When I had her ask questions about him, he said he was an auto mechanic from Canada. I asked my daughter if she thought it was a little odd that this man was on the Internet on a Friday night and not out with friends. She didn't think much of it and they kept chatting back and forth.

After about half an hour I asked her to ask him how old he was. He replied that he was 42 years old. Since she had already put her age up there for everyone to see, I knew he knew that he was talking to a young girl. The conversation between them was certainly not one that should hold the interest of an adult.

As a twist to their conversation, I suggested she tell him that she wasn't really 14 years old but to give him my age since I was older than he was. She confessed to him that she really wasn't 14 years old. He sent back a reassuring reply that it really didn't matter. Then he asked her how old she really was.

She said, "Oh, you really don't want to know." "Why not?" he replied, "I'm enjoying our conversation." "OK," my daughter said, "I'm 48." At that, he left the chat room and was never to be heard from again, at least not as "that person."



THE COMPANY

Yello Dyno's unique, non-fearful, confidence-building education method helps children protect themselves from abuse, abduction, bullies, drug abuse, school violence and other forms of victimization. The award-winning, musically-based personal safety educational system removes fear and insures high recall, empowering children with the tools they need to meet today's personal safety challenges. Since 1987, Yello Dyno has helped over 2,000,000 children stay safe with a variety of age-appropriate products, programs, and school curricula for children four to twelve years old.

THE PRODUCTS

All products are based on the core values of building self confidence, restoring instincts, and identifying deceptive behavior.

The Music: *Can't Fool Me!* CD

The Videos: *Can't Fool Me!* and *Tricky People!*

The Book: *Raising Safe Kids* (350 pg. Trade Paperback)

The Song & Activity Book: *The Fun Way To Safe Kids*

The Card: The Yello Dyno Quick Response Child ID

The DNA ID: The Ultimate in Personal Identification

The Special Reports: In-depth "Insider" Information

THE FOUNDER



Jan Wagner has drawn together some of the finest and most respected experts in the child protection arena to develop Yello Dyno's child safety products, programs, and curricula. Her insight as a caring, working mother has allowed her to communicate simply and effectively with America's parents and teachers to provide crucial child safety knowledge in a format easily taught and absorbed by kids in a way no one else has accomplished.

THE CURRICULA

Yello Dyno Pro Anti-Victimization Curricula are modeled after Yello Dyno's entertainment-driven programs that have been successfully presented in thousands of schools for many years. The curricula are an important addition for schools looking to reduce disruptive behavior, improve teacher-student communication, encourage non-violent conflict resolution and strengthen critical thinking. The musically-based Yello Dyno Method™ insures that the core fundamentals that underlie all personal safety are established. Then safety lessons are taught incorporating music, videos, games, role-playing and "teacher friendly" scripts to insure maximum retention of vital safety knowledge.

NON-FEARFUL • MUSICALLY-DRIVEN • MEMORY-ENHANCING • AWARD-WINNING

OVER 2,000,000 CHILDREN HELPED SINCE 1987



WWW.YELLODYNO.COM

Yello Dyno, Inc. • 203 Barsana Avenue • Austin, TX 78737 • (512) 288-2882 • Fax (512) 288-2898

