

***Indiana State Police Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Youth Educators Program***

potential for acts of school violence committed due to online victimization.

Past high profile instances of youth being victimized by cyber bullies, and sexual predators demanded a proactive program be developed and implemented in an effort to inoculate youth against such criminal acts.

There are 61 Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC) in the United

States. However, the Indiana ICAC Task Force is the first to have full-time Youth

Educators. Each Youth Educator works within the structure of the Indiana ICAC Task Force with presentations specifically designed to prevent victimization in the areas of:

- Online child sexual solicitation
- Online child extortion, also known as sextortion
- Online production of child pornography
- Online bullying, also known as cyberbullying
- Online radicalization mitigation to reduce the recruitment of youth by terrorists and criminal extremists.

The Indiana ICAC Youth Educators provides age appropriate Cyber Safety presentations to help reach our youth before they become victims, to provide help to those who have already been victimized and mitigate the

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Websites:**

[WWW.Cybertipline.com](http://WWW.Cybertipline.com)

[WWW.Netsmartz.org](http://WWW.Netsmartz.org)

[WWW.Missingkids.com](http://WWW.Missingkids.com)

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**

<https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

[1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255)



***Want to learn more about the Indiana State Police ICAC Youth Educator Program? Email your questions to:***



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## **The Internet is...**

***Not Anonymous***

***An Open Forum***

***Designed by Humans***

***Controlled by Humans***

***World Wide***

The good news is that most children are not getting into trouble online, but there are still risks to consider. No matter what your children like to do online, they face the following issues:

- Inappropriate content.
- Online privacy.
- Sexting.
- Online sexual solicitation.
- Cyberbullying.

### **TALK ABOUT RISK AT EVERY AGE**

Talk to your children about online risks in an age-appropriate way. For example:

- You should start talking about online manners, or “netiquette,” with your younger children so they have a good foundation for later lessons about issues like cyberbullying.
- Talk to children about not trusting everyone they meet online. By the

time they are teens, they will be ready to discuss the risks of meeting offline.

- Start talking to your tweens about not posting revealing pictures and evolve that into a frank discussion about sexting when they become teenagers.

### **INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT ONLINE**

The Internet opens up an entire world of information and images, some of which you do not want your children to see. On the Internet, your child might see content that features:

- Pornography.
- Excessive violence.
- Hate speech.
- Risky or illegal behaviors.

### **GAMING DANGERS ONLINE**

Online games have featured chat rooms for years, but gaming consoles, with the ability to play both online and off, create an added security threat for concerned, and often unsuspecting, parents.

- Online predators are now using gaming to groom children through game chat features.
- The video chats allow Internet predators having the ability to disable their camera, but ask your child to enable his own camera.

- This give a pedophile real time audio and visual access to your child, it allows them to vet victims and evade undercover police, posing as children to catch internet predators.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Talk to your child about what to do when they find inappropriate content. They can:

- Turn off the screen. Use the back button.
- Tell a trusted adult if they have questions or need help.
- Report the content to the website or app where they found it.
- Treat your child's gaming console as you would their smartphone and social media platforms.
- Familiarize yourself with all of the system's features, and learn how to enable parental controls.
- Explore all of the features of the console, and learn how to disable features such as Internet access and video streaming.
- If you chose to allow your child to play games online with others, sit with them while they play, or play along with them.
- Ask plenty of questions. Ask to see how they use chat and video functions to communicate with others, and determine whether or not your child can handle that responsibility.
- In addition to talking to children about what to do if they *see* inappropriate content, you will also want to talk to older children about not *posting* it themselves.