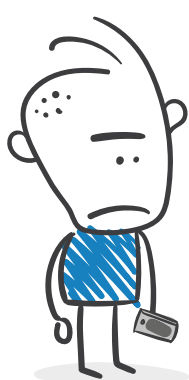# SECURITY INNOVATION

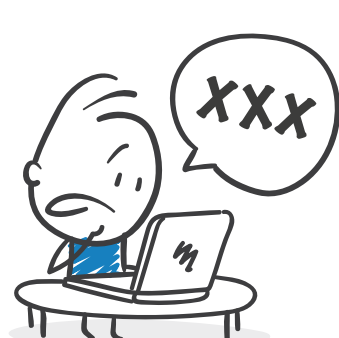# Talk to Your Children About Online Security

THREATS YOUR CHILDREN MAY BE EXPOSED TO ONLINE

Bullying

Child Predators

Seeing adult content at too young an age

Malware, ransomware, or worse

Addiction to computer/video games

Advertising enticing your kids to spend money (your money)

The potential online risks to your children is alarming! You could instill draconian measures to spy on your children's online activity; firewalls to restrict access to sites, monitoring apps on their phones and devices, and other restrictions but that won't get to the deepest issue. You need to apply online safety and security measures the whole family can benefit from. Be aware of security concerns and understand the practical safety measures you can take, these are all good starting points to get the conversation going.

HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

Try to keep computers in common spaces of your house
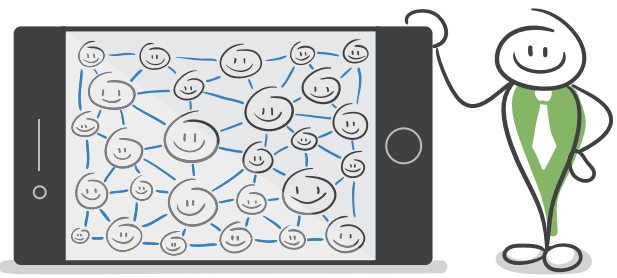
Recommend that your children only connect/communicate with friends they have met in person.

Educate and review all privacy settings for devices, apps and online accounts with your children.

Consider a firewall, filter, or parental controls on the web browser, especially for young children who may accidentally search or browse to adult content.

Have a conversation about what is okay to share. Try and reign in the "share everything" attitude and review any content posted publicly.

It's alright to ask your children to connect with you on social media, but don't abuse the privilege by embarrassing them and commenting on every post they make.

BULLYING ONLINE

If your child is being bullied, whether it is at school or online, it can be quite difficult to deal with. The perceived impact and reach of a comment can be quite broad and damaging. All social networks have policies to remove offensive posts, obviously the quicker you can address those posts the better. Social networks also have block features but that may mean the conversation will continue without your ability to track and document it.

CyberBullying

BUILDING A CASE

When trying to resolve and correct the behavior of a bully by approaching authorities, often the person who documents the most evidence has the strongest case.

Take notes and screen captures of every interaction and when you have enough evidence to take action, do so.

WHAT NOT TO DO

The worst thing you can do in any case of online bullying is fan the flames. It is better to say nothing than to respond to a bully online. If you are going to post anything at all, simply post "This comment is unwanted and inappropriate." If the bully continues to respond at this time, it is the very definition of harassment. If you or your child has expressed their discontent with the actions of a bully, and it continues, you have a much stronger case.

LEARN MORE

NeedHelpNow.ca
A great site with resources for parents and children to keep safe online.

SECURITY INNOVATION