



Internet Safety

www.verizonfoundation.org

The Verizon Foundation invests in initiatives that empower the safe and effective use of technology. Verizon is an acknowledged leader in the issue of Internet safety, and the Verizon Foundation is actively supporting nonprofit programs that further awareness and provide effective education for parents, children and seniors on how to maintain a safe and secure online experience.

We are teaching children to implement responsible safety measures on the Internet and cell phones.

- > *Web Wise Kids* has a mission of equipping today's youth to make wise choices online. The online programs – based on real-life criminal cases – use stories and games developed by experts in instructional design, learning theory and creativity. Web Wise Kids provides these learning tools at no charge to schools, libraries, afterschool programs, law enforcement agencies and other nonprofit organizations.

We are helping parents and caregivers to protect their children, and teaching adults how to use the Internet vigilantly.

- > *Enough is Enough's Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents* program is a DVD teaching tool that includes elements designed to help parents – and teachers – raise awareness of Internet dangers for children. The Virginia PTA is distributing 1,600 Internet Safety 101 kits that will teach families how to recognize and protect their children from online dangers.
- > *The Children's Partnership – Parent's Guide to Online Kids* provides online safety curriculum and supporting materials for low-income, Latino parents of middle school children. These tools motivate parents to become involved in their children's online activities and equip them with skills and tools they need to safely guide their children's computer and Internet use.

We are preparing law enforcement officers to investigate Internet-related crimes against children.

- > *Safety Net*, developed and presented by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, educates law enforcement officials about how technology can be used to increase survivor safety and confidentiality, as well as how it is used to endanger survivors. The program's curriculum teaches about benefits and risks associated with telephones, the Internet, Global Positioning Systems, social networking sites and e-mail.

Programs supported by the Verizon Foundation are reaching millions of children, teens and adults. Technology offers unlimited opportunities and experiences. The Verizon Foundation and our partners are working hard to make sure these experiences are safe and positive for everyone.

Why does the Verizon Foundation invest in Internet safety?

Millions of school-age American children possess naive attitudes about their online safety and engage in a range of high-risk behavior. (*National Assessment Center™*)

The Pew Internet & Family Life 2007 Survey reports:

- > 58 percent of teens have a profile online.
- > 40 percent of teens with profiles say anyone can see their profile.
- > 32 percent of teens have experienced online harassment or "cyber bullying."
- > 32 percent of online teens have been contacted online by a complete stranger.
- > Of teens who have been contacted, 23 percent say they were made scared or uncomfortable by the stranger contact.
- > 21 percent of teens responded to stranger contact to find out more about the person.
- > One in seven teens reported unwanted sexual solicitation online.

Find out more about our efforts to promote safe Internet use.

www.verizonfoundation.org

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