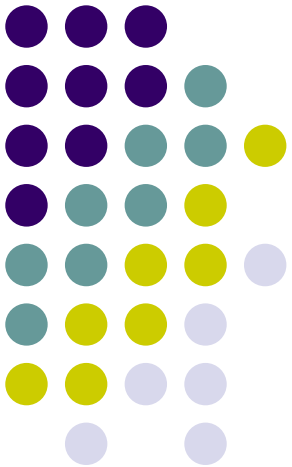
Internet Safety for Parents

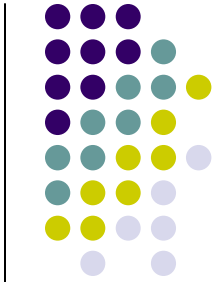
Portsmouth Public Schools Parent and Community Outreach



Why should I be concerned about Internet Safety?

- Technology provides opportunities for everyone, including predators.

What kids are doing on social networking sites



- **61%** of 13- to 17-year-olds have a personal profile on a site such as MySpace, Friendster, or Xanga.*
- **50%** have posted pictures of themselves. *

*Based on survey commissioned by Cox Communications and NCMEC2, released in May 2006.

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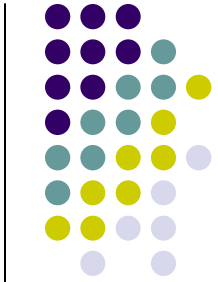
Risky behavior… real life consequences

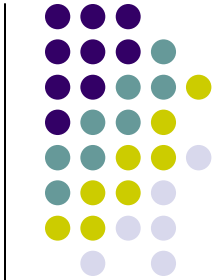
- **71%** reported receiving messages online from someone they don't know.
- **45%** have been asked for personal information by someone they don't know.
- **30%** have considered meeting someone that they've only talked to online
- **14%** have actually met a person face-to-face they they've only spoken to over the Internet (9% of 13-15s; 22% of 16-17s).

What you don’t know can hurt



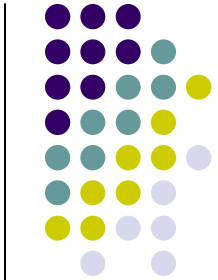
- When teens receive messages online from someone they don’t know, **40%** reported that they’ll usually reply and chat with that person.
- Only **18%** said they’ll tell an adult.

Portsmouth Public Schools provides Instruction, and Internet Safety Monitoring to protect students



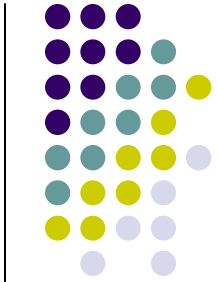
- Instruction is provided for all students, K-12
- Web filtering is utilized on the PPS network
- Student Online activity is monitored in real time
- Access to chatrooms, blogs, and social networking sites like MySpace is blocked
- Students do not have access to email accounts

So…
Where are kids at risk?



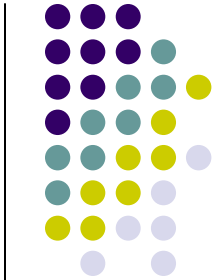
- Do your kids use the Internet at home?
- Do they have access to the Internet from their phone or other mobile devices?

Do you know what your kids are doing online in your home?



- "**33%** of 13- to- 17-year-olds reported that their parents or guardians know "very little" or "nothing" about what they do on the Internet."
- "**48%** of 16-17s said their parents or guardians know "very little" or "nothing""

Where can I get some help?



- A wealth of high quality, online resources exist to inform, engage and empower families, caregivers, educators, and other community members regarding potential dangers and pro-active measures to consider regarding responsible Internet use.
- **NetSmartz** is one of the many high quality resources available.

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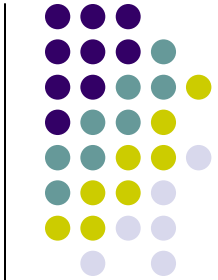
NetSmartz Workshop



- “The NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational safety resource from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for children aged 5 to 17, parents, guardians, educators, and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet.”

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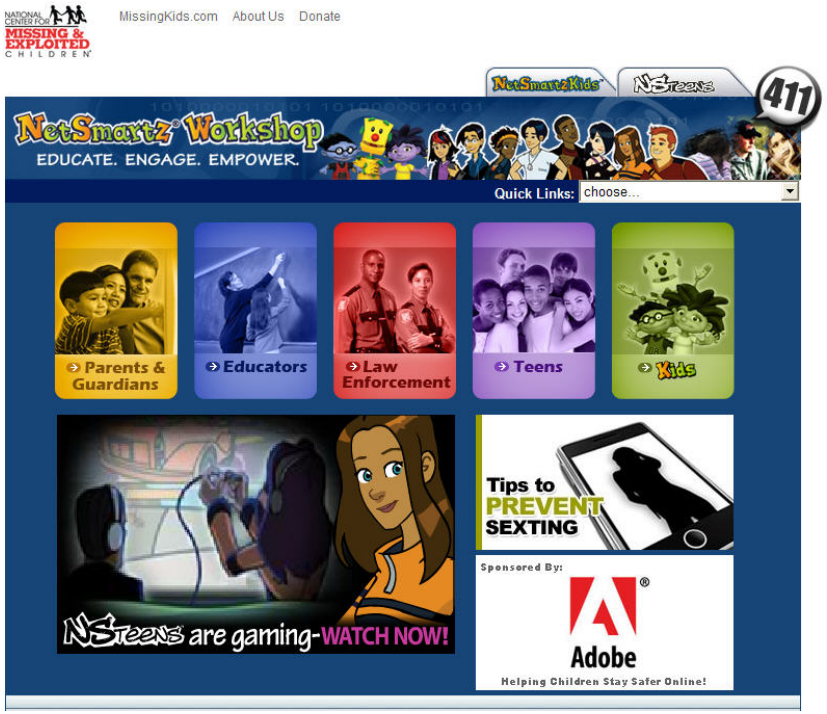
NetSmartz Workshop

Educate. Engage. Empower.



http://www.netsmartz.org/

NetSmartz Parent Page

- Activities geared to facilitate parent/child discussions regarding Internet Safety

http://www.netsmartz.org/netparents.htm

NetSmartz 411

- “Premier, online resource for parents and guardians to get information about Internet Safety.

http://www.netsmartz411.org/

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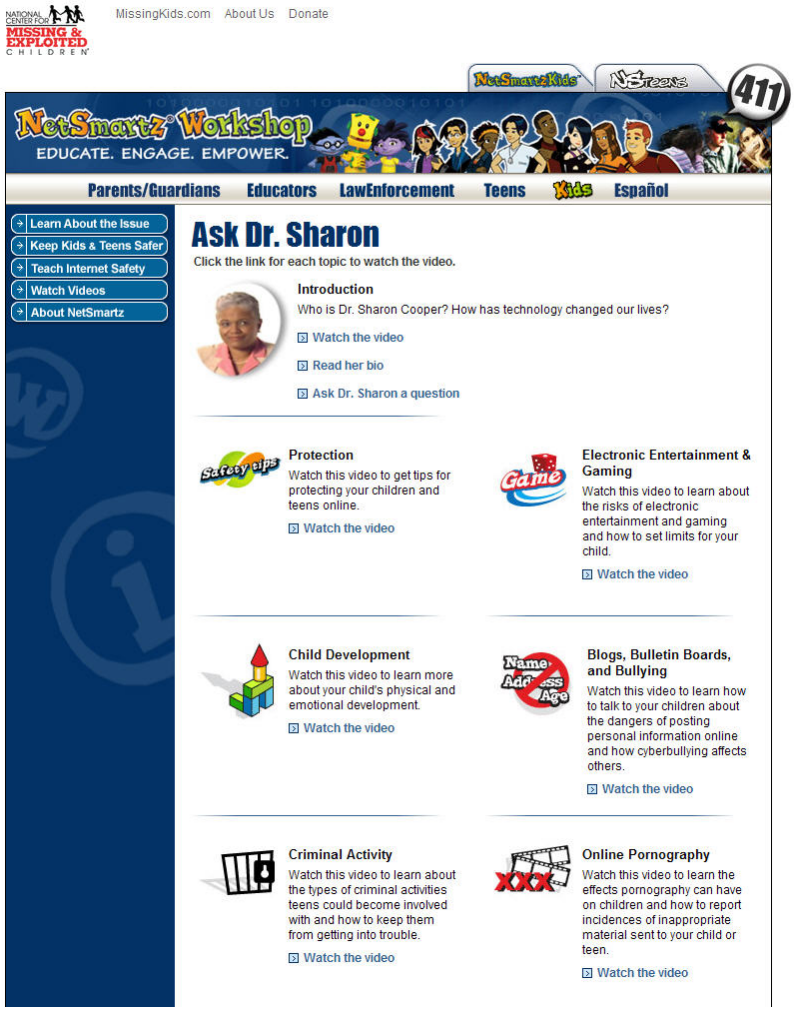
Ask Dr. Sharon

- Watch videos to learn about Internet Safety



http://www.netsmartz.org/safety/drsharon_videos.htm

NetSmartz kids page

- Contains interactive games and activities.

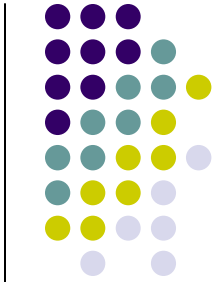
http://www.netsmartzkids.org/indexFL.htm

NetSmartzTeens Page

- Teens share experiences relating the darker side of the Internet .

http://www.netsmartz.org/netteens.htm

Research shows that…



- Families that talk with their teenagers about Internet Safety help reduce some youth exposure to potential threats and encourages safer online choices among teenagers.

Families make the difference

- “Fewer teens whose families have talked to them “a lot” about online safety have an IM name or pictures of themselves on the Internet, compared to kids whose families have not talked to them at all.”
- “More teens who’ve talked to parents or guardians also ignore messages from unfamiliar people, refuse to reply or chat, block unknown senders, and report these occurrences to trusted adults.”

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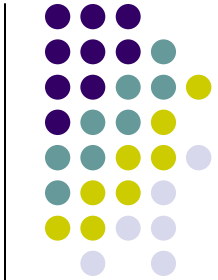
Be pro-active!



- Be informed.
- Talk with your kids.
- Take action.
  - Keep computers in a common area
  - Use Family Contracts (Microsoft)
  - Set parental controls: Take Charge! (Cox Cable)