



## PRP'S TOP TEN

### Tips To Protect Children from Internet Predators

1. **Communicate with your child and establish ground rules on their use of the Internet.** (For sample rules go to [www.peelpolice.ca](http://www.peelpolice.ca) )
2. **Become more computer literate and Internet savvy yourself.** Learn what your children like to do online and join in. i.e. set up an MSN/Facebook account for yourself.
3. **Check out parental controls available on your online service.** Block adult chat rooms. Block Instant/Personal Messages from people you don't know. Install filtering/blocking software, or use a "clean Internet provider" that filters at the server level.
4. **Keep the computer in a "public" area in your house.** NEVER allow a child to have a computer in their room that has Internet access.
5. **Monitor the amount of time your child spends on the Internet, and at what times of day.** Excessive time online, especially at night, may indicate a problem. Agree on a set time; use an egg timer; one hour means one hour. (Time on the Internet is time taken from other healthy activities.)
6. **Tell your children to never agree to meet someone they've met online; or give out personal information, including name, address, school they attend or teachers' names, parents' names, etc.**
7. **Do not allow your child to use a Web Cam, digital camera, or video camera without your very close supervision.**
8. **Regularly search the Internet "history" on every computer with Internet access in your home, and don't be hesitant to question the parents of other children your child may visit.** If your child erases the "history", they don't want you to see where they've been. This is a good time to have a talk.
9. **Very closely monitor chat rooms your child may visit.** Chat rooms and web sites that cater to children are where 90% of the initial contacts are made by Internet child sexual predators.
10. **Remind your children to conduct themselves online the same as in the real world.** Schools have been dealing with Cyberbullying on a regular basis. Kids need to treat each other with respect and look out for their friends and younger siblings.

**Letting children use the Internet unsupervised, particularly talking in chat rooms, is the equivalent of dropping them off at a park, at 10:00 p.m., and saying, "Go make some new friends."**