**Parenting Tips and Strategies for Cyber-Bullying**

* **Keep the computer in an open area**

A responsible adult should always accompany minors while they access the Internet to provide support and direction should they be confronted with an aggressive solicitation or inappropriate materials.

* **Respect your child’s privacy**

Respect your child’s privacy but make certain they know personally everyone on their e-mail “buddy” list. Work to generate parent and child trust that supports open and honest Internet use.

* **Be a part of your child’s online experience**

It can be a fun journey to explore the wonders of the Internet as a family. As computer-savvy as kids and teens are today they will certainly teach you a thing or two!

* **Set your child’s MySpace or Facebook profile to private and remove any personal information**

Visit <http://ikeepsafe.org/PRC/videotutorials/myspace/index.html> for additional information. This link also provides information about blocking or filtering communication from social networking sites.

* **Review your child’s IM session logs**

Ensure that they are not sending or receiving inappropriate or harmful content.

* **Contact the parent of a cyber-bully if they can be identified**
* **Keep copies of emails, postings, or pictures that are threatening**
* **Contact websites if the site is failing to comply with its safety and privacy guidelines**

**Web Sites and Resources**

[www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)

[www.safekids.com](http://www.safekids.com) (A parent’s guide to Facebook)

[www.stopcyberbullying.org](http://www.stopcyberbullying.org)

**Navigating Cyber World Tips for Teens**

* **“If I know you F2F then we can chat in cyber space!”** (F2F=face to face)

Protect yourself from possible impostors. Do not trust someone who you cannot see. Remember friendships are built on trust and honesty; it is not a friendship if you do not really know the real person.

* **If you can’t say it F2F, don’t say it in cyber space!**

Don’t post anything that grandma wouldn’t be proud of!

* **Would you be willing to attach a copy of your text messages, instant messages or social networking site to your college application or a job application?**
* **They can find you!**

Just because you are in the privacy of your own home, emails, IM’s, and other forms of electronic communication are traceable. Many forms of electronic aggression are considered crimes.

* **You are responsible for your electronic use!**

Be accountable for every “click” or “send”!

**“WWWW” Strategy**

***W***hat am I about to do?

***W***hat could be the consequences?

***W***hy do I want to do it?

***W***ould I want it done to me?

***Be the change you want to see in the world.***

**~Gandhi**