

HELPING KIDS STAY SAFE ONLINE

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center's tips on how you can help young people navigate the Internet safely

TALK ABOUT WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE SAFE ONLINE.

Be open and ask them if they have any questions.

EXPLAIN THAT ONLINE USERS CAN PRETEND TO BE SOMEONE THEY'RE NOT.

Talk about red flags, like someone asking them for pictures, asking to keep secrets, or sending inappropriate images.

WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A LIST OF INTERNET RULES.

Include things like not using their full name online, never giving out their location or the name of their school, and not talking to anyone they don't know.

DISCUSS CYBERBULLYING & WHY IT'S NEVER OK.

Help them understand that it's never OK to engage in any form of bullying, and that they can come to you if anyone is ever cyberbullying them.

ENCOURAGE THEM TO TELL YOU IF SOMETHING CONCERNS THEM.

This could include mean comments about one of their friends, a website that made them feel uncomfortable, or a stranger who sent them messages.

SUPERVISE THEIR INTERNET USE (AS APPROPRIATE).

This could include keeping devices in a shared room in the house, setting special passwords and parental controls, or checking Internet history.

KEEP SECURITY SOFTWARE UPDATED.

This will lessen the risk of a child accessing an inappropriate website, downloading a suspicious file, or opening up the computer to potential hackers.

By practicing these safety measures and having open conversations with your kids, you can help prevent online abuse. And if your child ever comes into contact with anything inappropriate or dangerous, they will know they can come talk to you.