# What is Cyber Safety?

Cyber safety addresses the ability to act in a safe and responsible manner on the Internet and other connected environments. These behaviors protect personal information and reputation. Include safe practices to minimize danger from behavioral-based rather than hardware/software-based problems.

## **Cyber Safety Risks**

The internet has changed the way individuals interact with the each other. There is now greater access to in-depth knowledge, tools to express creativity, and people from all over the world. Along with new ways to connect with the world, the internet also poses new risks including cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate material, online predators, and the risk of revealing too much personal information.



### Who We Are

The West Georgia Prevention & Advocacy Resource Center strives to end sexual violence in our community through prevention and awareness. We provide direct service to survivors of sexual assault, their families and their friends. We are committed to fostering awareness of sexual assault through community education. We work to create a climate of safety and healing for all victims of sexual assault. All services are free and confidential.

#### **Contact Us**

24-Hour Hotline: 770-834-RAPE (7273)

Business Line: 770-834-8905 Email: prevention@wgaparc.org Web: www.wgaparc.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/WGAPARC

Twitter: @WGAPARC

#### **Cyber Safety**

Prevention & Advocacy Resource Center P.O. Box 2825 Carrollton, GA 30112 770-834-8905 (Business line) 770-834-7273 (Crisis line)





## Be Aware of What Your Kids Are Doing Online

- Talk with your kids about cyberbullying and other online issues regularly.
- Know the sites your kids visit and their online activities. Ask where they're going, what they're doing, and who they're doing it with.
- > Tell your kids that as a responsible parent you may review their online communications if you think there is reason for concern.
- Have a sense of what they do online and in texts. Learn about the sites they like. Try out the devices they use.
- Ask for their passwords, but tell them you'll only use them in case of emergency.
- Ask to "friend" or "follow" your kids on social media sites or ask another trusted adult to do so.

## **Staying Cyber Safe**

- Avoid giving out personal information such as name, phone number, school, home address, school, or photographs on the internet.
- ✓ Avoid accepting gifts or money offered over the internet.
- ✓ Close unused online accounts.
- ✓ Search for yourself online, using your name, username, phone number, or any other personal information. Is there anything out there that's too revealing? Is there anything out there that you haven't created yourself?
- ✓ Have a general understanding of the language being used online.
- ✓ Never post anything that would embarrass you or others.
- ✓ Do not arrange any face-to-face meetings with people you meet on the internet.



## Establish Rules About Technology Use

Establish rules about appropriate use of computers, cell phones, and other technology. For example, be clear about what sites they can visit and what they are permitted to do when they're online.

Encourage kids to think about who they want to see the information and pictures they post online. Should complete strangers see it? Real friends only? Friends of friends? Think about how people who aren't friends could use it.

Help them be smart about what they post or say. Tell them not to share anything that could hurt or embarrass themselves or others. Once something is posted, it is out of their control whether someone else will forward it.

Tell kids to keep their passwords safe and not share them with friends. Sharing passwords can compromise their control over their online identities and activities.