

# The Digital World of Kids: The Parent Connection

# Connected Kids

- Kids love the digital world, and it has changed the dynamics of their interactions & communications;
- Pew Institute found that 35% of teens prefer digital communication with their friends as opposed to face-to-face communication;
- Also found that 33% of adults prefer digital communication with their peers over face-to-face communication;

# Connected Kids

- U.S. teens *send* an average of 4,700 texts per month (girls @ 5,200, boys @ 4,300); some average 6,000 to 10,000 per month;
- Many students express the belief their digital speech is “private”, and should be free from parental view;
- Desire for, and belief in the control of privacy is paramount for youth;
- Lack of privacy & permanence of speech.



# Social Media & Texting

## 4 Rules of Social Media

1. It is searchable – anyone, anywhere, any time can find it;
2. It is permanent – anyone, including a future employer, can find it today, tomorrow, or 25 years from now;
3. It is copyable – once they find it, they can copy it, share it and change it;
4. It has a global audience – even if your page is private, you can't tell which friend shares your stuff. You have no control over what friends will do with it.

# Social Media Ownership

- When joining any social media site, must sign “*letter of agreement*” which specifies terms of ownership;
- Do you remember what those terms are?
- Facebook states that, “you own all of the content and information you post on Facebook”, *but...*
- *sub-licensable, fully paid, royalty-free, worldwide license to use any IP content on or in connection with Facebook*”;
- Essentially they own everything you post.



# Instagram

- Instagram bought by Facebook 3 years ago, and has same agreement with users but...
- they add, *'you hereby grant Instagram...license to use, modify, delete from, add to, publicly perform, publicly display, reproduce and translate such content, including without limitation part or all of the site in any media formats through any media channels;*
- Again, they own all your stuff AND can sell your stuff;

# Snap Chat App

- Appealing because you can:
- Snap photos and videos that are automatically deleted after a set number of seconds;
- But....
- States that *“Although we attempt to delete image data as soon as possible after the message is transmitted, we cannot guarantee that the message contents will be deleted in every case.”*



# Pokemon Go

- Lots of fun, but...
- Mines your data;
- Requires an active wifi or gps signal at all times in order to play, so it has to know who you are;
- Privacy statement tells you it collects user data, including name, age, location and photos;
- Tells you it can hand your PII over to law enforcement, sell it, share it with third parties, and store it, anywhere.

# Social Media Permanence

- Snap chat had to acknowledge that *every single image* being sent via their site is being saved and stored on the cloud;
- Instagram & facebook state that when you delete your content it is not really deleted;
- States that “*you understand that removed content persists in backup copies*”;
- Social media can never be truly private since it is public space.

Sexting



# What is it?

- Sexting has become more normalized than ever before, with on average 1 in about 4 females between the ages of 13 to 18, and 1 in about 5 males engaging in sexting;
- So what exactly is sexting?
- Is it sexting if a female teen sends a pic of themselves in their bra and underwear?
- If the sender of a nude image is 18 years old, is it illegal?

# Ghost or Vault Apps



# Cyberbullying



# Cyberbullying

- There is no constitutional right to be cruel;
- While there is substantial freedom of speech, there are also boundaries to digital speech;
- Inappropriate or harmful digital speech often crosses the line into criminal conduct;
- Boundaries of digital speech are both criminal and civil.

# Criminal Conduct

- As of October, 2015, cyberbullying and cyber harassment are now criminal conduct in PA;
- Through Act 26, youth can be arrested for cyber bullying and cyber harassment, entering into a diversionary program to address behavior;
- Also subject to other sanctions, such as probation, fines, counseling, etc;

# Colleges & Employers



# Colleges

- Many college admissions officers routinely check out the Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vine, etc., sites of applicants;
- Also check out YouTube and archive sites;
- Negative information impacted their decisions on admissions and scholarships;
- Acceptances have been rescinded;
- Can monitor student's digital speech and social media.

# Employers

- About 75% of HR Directors now do comprehensive digital reputation reviews prior to hiring;
- Will be routine to do comprehensive review on all applicants, especially in certain careers;
- Why hire someone with a problematic reputation when others are “clean”;
- What will they find out about your child?

# Archive Sites

- Archived web sites are essentially digital libraries of Internet sites
- Archived sites use web crawlers (web spiders, web robots or “bots”) that browse the Internet in a methodical, automated manner.
- The bots download snapshots from the Internet, all day, every day;
- If you have space on any social networking site, your stuff is saved somewhere;



# Parents & Monitoring

# Monitoring

- Apps now available to monitor kids digital speech;
- [www.uknowkids.com](http://www.uknowkids.com) and [www.mspy.com](http://www.mspy.com);
- Mobile monitoring – droids, I Phones; I-pods & I-pads;
- Social networking monitoring – Facebook, Twitter & Instagram;
- Can have your cell phone carrier mirror your kid's phone to yours.

# Managing the Digital World

- Learn, learn, learn about your kids' electronic world.
- Manage your child's electronic life as you do other aspects of their life – know where they are going, who they are spending time with, and what they are doing there.
- Discuss the electronic world's lack of privacy *often* with your child – kids tend to be electronically savvy but woefully ignorant of responsibilities and consequences;



# Managing the Digital World

- Have periodic discussions with your child about their digital speech and its ramifications;
- Learn all your child's user-names and passwords to their accounts;
- Require that all cell phones be charged overnight in a common area of your home;
- Periodically check their texts;

# Managing the Digital World

- Think through your child's needs & developmental level;
- Be sure your child knows what your expectations are for their digital behavior and be ready to hold them accountable;
- Monitoring their digital world is just as important as monitoring their physical world is.