

My Turn: There's One More Talk You Need to Have

**You've tackled sex,
drugs and alcohol. Now
you need to find out
what your child is doing
online**

Martha Stansell-Gamm, head of the Justice Department's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, says parents should pay more attention to what their kids are doing online.

By Martha Stansell-Gamm
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Sept. 15, 2003 - Not long ago my son received his driver's license. In Virginia, this is a big deal-the ceremony takes place at the county court where a black-robed judge, a police officer and a defense attorney all address the drivers about their newly acquired freedom. It is an impressive rite of passage that marks a teenager's assumption of important new powers and responsibilities.

As I watched the ceremony, I was struck by the difference between our approach to teaching kids to drive and teaching them to use computers. Cars and computers are both powerful tools that can do wonderful or terrible things-depending on whose hands are on the wheel or whose fingers are on the keyboard. Most parents know that inducting a teenager into the world of driving requires more than teaching him the mechanics. (Imagine it: "There's the gas pedal, steering wheel, brake and keys-have fun, dear!") They tell their kids that irresponsible behaviors like driving drunk and speeding endanger others on the road. But because most parents did not grow up using computer technology (and may even fear it), they don't understand how much damage kids can cause with computers. Our children, however, know this well.

Years ago, when my son was in elementary school, I spoke at a career day where I posed the following question to his fellow fourth graders: "How would you feel if you wrote an e-mail message to a friend and someone hacked your Internet service provider and read it?" They were horrified! I went on. "How about if someone hacked the school computer and read your grades?" The group was unanimous and passionate: anyone who would do such a hurtful thing was the scum of the earth.

Afterward the teacher approached me privately and asked, "Can children actually do those things?" Yes, they can, and it's not that difficult. Any moderately bright teenager can do all that and more, aided by free point-and-click hacker programs openly available on the Net.

Unfortunately, many parents don't find out what their children are doing online until the FBI appears at their door with a search warrant. A teenager can (and did) cut off the phone service to an entire town for hours by hacking the local phone company. Adolescents can (and have) seriously hurt the music, gaming and software industries, shut down Internet news and commerce sites, brought businesses and government agencies to a halt, and attacked military networks in ways that have initiated high-level concern for the economy and for public health and safety.

How can we teach our children to use computers responsibly, just as we teach them to be good citizens of the road? Talking to them is a great way to begin. Although it may sometimes seem that it doesn't matter what we say to our kids, most of them are listening. Adolescents who are charged with online crimes-like the 18-year-old arrested for creating a variation of the Blaster virus that instructed at least 7,000 computers to attack Microsoft networks-almost never have criminal records. This is most likely because they absorbed the values their parents taught them about other areas of their lives. Many kids who would never steal mail or CDs or destroy property think nothing of helping themselves to copyrighted music over peer-to-peer networks, or launching a destructive Internet virus.

Parents don't have to be technologically savvy to tell kids what's off-limits. They need only to make it clear their children must respect the rights of others. They need to tell them that no matter how many of their friends are stealing music, movies, games or software, they are not allowed to do it. (In fact, parents should make sure kids remove file-sharing programs from their computer. It's a security hazard, too.) They must be explicit that hacking or attacking networks is wrong. And they need to make it clear that if these rules are broken, the child will face serious consequences-at home, at school and maybe even in the courts.

There are resources to help parents teach their children how to be good citizens on the Net. A good place to start is www.cybercrime.gov; university-sponsored ethics Web sites are also excellent sources of information. But the most important thing parents should remember is that they don't have to be information-technology experts to have these core ethics conversations, and there is no voice a child needs to hear on this subject more than theirs.

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There needs to be an end in sight, where the two of you can live near each other and work on your relationship in person. I suspect that your boyfriend is getting burned out on maintaining his long distance connection with you. Whatever is going on with him, here is what you can do! You need to appreciate that when someone is really into someone, boring is not the big deal here. What is, is compatibility. The attitude is what I am talking about. There isn't this worry and fear but rather empathy, love for one another, and it is much better than hope. It is certainty. You can't turn right here. You have to turn left. I have to wear glasses for reading. George can't come out with us this evening. You don't have to do something = you don't need to do it (but you can if you want): You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone). You don't have to tell him, but you can if you want to. I promised I would be on time. I mustn't be late. It's very dangerous. 5 There's a lift in the building, so we _ climb the stairs. 6 You _ forget what I told you. It's very important. 7 Sue _ get up early, but she usually does. 8 Don't make so much noise. We _ wake the children. 9 I _ eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet. -I Need to Have S** to Turn Back!- The hit novel is now a comic! Alto, a novice librarian, is cursed to turn into a woman at sundown. To turn back into a man, he has to sl** with other men! Alto confesses his problem to the handsome bad-boy knight Sir Lloyd, who's only too happy to help him out. Alto shouldn't be enjoying this, but why does it feel so good!? And then there's Sir Lune, the well-mannered knight-in-shining-armor Alto has always admired, who's worried about Alto, too Enjoy this one-of-a-kind story! This work contains both straight and gay themes. Show more. Latest manga releases. Chapter 3 10.07.2020. Chapter 2 10.07.2020. Chapter 1 10.07.2020. Show more. MANGA DISCUSSION. Leave a Reply Cancel reply. We Got More Soul. ©2013. Dyke & The Blazers. There's a shop down the road with a little café stand in it where I get my morning coffee. The shopkeepers know me, when I walk in one will say, "Hello my friend," and the other, "How are you?" but clearly doesn't expect a response. So, while waiting for my coffee I turned to the man behind the counter and said in Russian, "So, the weather today, huh?" "Are you talking to me?" he asked. "No, I was trying to have small-talk, you know, just talk with the barista." "But you have a girlfriend?" "What?" But when I turned to this man, who I later (much later) learnt was named Tim, and said, "How's it going?" something very different happened. Five hours later I was sat at the birthday party of Tim's best friend in a place he referred to as a Soviet bar.