

Facebook Safety Parent Night

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NOTE: This handout was designed for a presentation. It contains useful information but some items may be unclear without the presentation.

Introduction:

Facebook is not bad. It is a powerful communication and community building tool, which has risks associated with it. In general, denying Facebook use by children until 18 may be difficult. The goal then is to understand, acknowledge and minimize risks by learning to make good decisions.

Many items in this presentation apply to other social media websites such as My Space, Google Buzz, Nings, and many others.

Children and teens are different from adults:

- They are affected by and respond differently to the same content/situations than adults.
- They make different decisions than adults and they make those decisions differently.
- They are not as developmentally prepared for the decisions as adults.
- What is appropriate for an adult on Facebook may not be appropriate for a children.

Note that I won't be going over all aspects of Facebook – there is just too much.

General Ideas

Private is not private. Facebook should not be considered private. My photo album at

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2040392&id=1172776261&l=19b7e67471> is accessible to anyone on the internet, no Facebook account or friending needed!



"It helps me remember that when I'm online, nothing I do is really private."

General aspects of online communication

- Apparent anonymity (easier to be mean)
- Consequences of behavior not always apparent (no body language, no immediate reaction, misinterpretation of written communication)
- Loss of privacy
- Can be very vulgar and/or sexualized.
- Parents should have anytime access (especially at first)

About Facebook:

- Facebook is a for-profit company. What are the implications of a for-profit company?
- Facebook **Terms of Use** (excerpt handout)
 - <http://www.facebook.com/terms.php?ref=pf>
 - "You will not use Facebook if you are under 13."
 - Children Online recommends 16 and over.
- Facebook **Privacy Policy** (excerpt handout)

- <http://www.facebook.com/policy.php>
- Facebook is a very complicated program with a number of sub-programs, and 3rd party add-ons (applications etc).
- Facebook is always changing (which can include its Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.)

Facebook Tour

Home page (handout)

- **Center Panel:** what's on your mind, news feed
 - Look over news feed: status posts, photos, videos, links, other info.
 - Lengthy conversations can develop through replies to status updates.
- **Left bar links:** your name and picture, news feed, messages, events, photos, friends, applications, games, groups, marketplace, other and friend online
- **Top bar links:** friends, messages, notifications, search, home, profile, account
- **Right bar links:** requests, suggestions, sponsored (ads), events, get connected

Profile Page and Personal Information (handout)

- **All about you:** your updates, content (photos, videos, etc), friends, information and targeted ads.
- **Photos of you:**
 - You or someone else can tag yourself in a photo.
 - Someone else can upload and tag a compromising picture of you!
- **Videos of you:** same as photos
- **TABS**
 - **Wall:** a personalized news feed about you and your activity
 - **Info:** personal information about you that you enter,
 - **What can we find out about me from my info?** Date of birth? Location? Conversation starters? Contact information?
 - **used for targeted ads**
 - Some ads are inappropriate or offensive
 - Where do these adds go?
 - Anywhere on internet
 - Are they safe?
 - not all!
 - Facebook scams abound for anything that is not directly controlled by facebook.
 - Can kids resist the temptation to click on ads when the ads are targeted at their specific interests and age?
 - Recommendation: **NEVER click on ads!**
 - **Photos**
 - Default security setting is “everyone” meaning completely public.
 - Can be set when creating an album or later
 - under “edit album” and “edit info” (options: everyone, friends of friends, friends only, custom)

BULLYING THROUGH THE AGES



- What do photos say about you and others?
- **Videos:** same as photos
- **Other:** links, applications, events, notes, etc.
 - Links send you off of Facebook

Friends and Friending

- This is a new and potentially complicated issue for adults as well as children.
- **How Friending Works**
 - You find someone on facebook (through searching or browsing friends of friends)
 - You request to become a friend That person confirms your request and now has access to most or all of your info!
- **Friends are currency:** the more you have the more popular, and respected you are!
 - What does this do?
- **What does being a Facebook Friend mean?**
 - essentially nothing
- **What is the most effective way to become someone's friend?**
 - Simply requesting to be their friend, nothing more is generally needed
 - What stops you from friending someone? Why not do it? How do you feel if you don't accept a friend request?
- **What does it mean to have 1000 friends?** Can you have 1000 friends?
- **Friend lists:** you can create sublists of friends (work, family, BFF, etc) but who do you include and who do you not include?
 - You can publish info to sublists of people, not all your friends (new feature)
 - Parents "friends" can be excluded from posts because they are excluded from a friend lists.
- **Unfriending**
 - You can be unfriended with a push of a button and you don't get a notification! -
 - Could this be used negatively?

Facebook Features and 3rd Party Add-Ons

- **Messages**
 - Internal Facebook "email" for communication between anyone on Facebook
 - Don't need to be friends to send a message to someone
 - Easy to check message history BUT messages can be deleted.
- **Chat**
 - Live text chat with a friend.
 - No record of conversation once window is closed.
- **Games and Applications**
 - **Greatly expands what Facebook can do and is always expanding.**
 - **Games and apps are not part of Facebook** company but are 3rd party add-ons.
 - Games and apps are, in some ways, similar to the App Store from Apple for the iPhone and iPod Touch.
 - **Games and applications request access to your information and your friends information in order for you to play!**
 - a friend using a game can give your information to the game company

- some applications analyze your and your friends data
- what happens to this information? Facebook puts rules on it, but there is no guarantee the 3rd party will follow the rules.
- Applications can be questionable or even offensive
- **Groups**
 - Can be set to private, closed or public.
 - Can be questionable or inappropriate.

Final Thoughts

What are the issues?

- Negative interactions with peers with cyber-bullying as the extreme
- Exposure to inappropriate content (vulgar, violent, sexual, etc.)
- Private information becomes public (identity theft, scamming, etc.)
- Long-term reputation concerns (college applications, job-hunting)
- Potential for contact with strangers
- Others

Online Persona

- Does online persona match the in-person persona? If not, is that OK?
- How do you represent yourself online?

Modeling by Adults

- Do we, as adults, model good, safe Facebook behavior?
- If we were a child or teen would our Facebook behavior be appropriate?

Facebook is Mobile

- Facebook and the internet are now available on smartphones like the iPhone, Blackberry, and others as well as other mobile devices like the iPod Touch.

3-prong strategy

2. Know Facebook and the risks
3. Use account privacy settings and other Facebook tools
4. Make good decisions

Talk with and support each other

Resources for Additional Information:

Facebook www.facebook.com

Parents help page: <http://www.facebook.com/help/?page=937>

Terms of use: <http://www.facebook.com/terms.php?ref=pf>

Privacy policy: <http://www.facebook.com/policy.php>

Children Online <http://childrenonline.org>

- **Children Online February 2010 Newsletter:**

<http://childrenonline.org/newsletters/Feb10.pdf> (handout)

- **Children Online recommendation from November 2009 Newsletter:**

<http://childrenonline.org/newsletters/Nov09.pdf>

Excerpts (please see full newsletter):

1. Read terms of service
2. Review and discuss privacy settings
3. Be Aware of the default public search option in Settings
4. Set the posting of ads shown by Facebook & third party apps to "No One"
5. Be aware of and view networks [groups] joined by teens on Facebook
6. Educate teens about the numerous scams and tricks aimed at Facebook users
 - i. Never click a Facebook link in an email
 - ii. Avoid using Facebook applications before researching them first
 - iii. Avoid clicking on the ads listed on the sidebar of Facebook
 - iv. If it seems too good to be true, it is.

- **Children Online recommendations from January 2009 Newsletter**

<http://childrenonline.org/newsletters/Jan09.pdf>

- Excerpts (please see full newsletter)

Strategies for Social Networking Sites:

1. We recommend that teens fifteen and younger not have access to SNS.
2. If your teen already has a site, ask them to let you see their pages.
3. Read the Fine Print
4. Use software to help you create time boundaries for SNS use
5. Explore the various SNS sites yourself.
6. Ignore your child's outrage about privacy, honesty and distrust.
7. Explain that there is no privacy online, especially on SNS.
8. Google words combinations such as "Facebook" and "scams" or "hack" or "attacks" and ask your child to follow links to see how easy it is to hack into accounts or trick users on these sites.
9. Remind them that they lose all control of content once posted online.

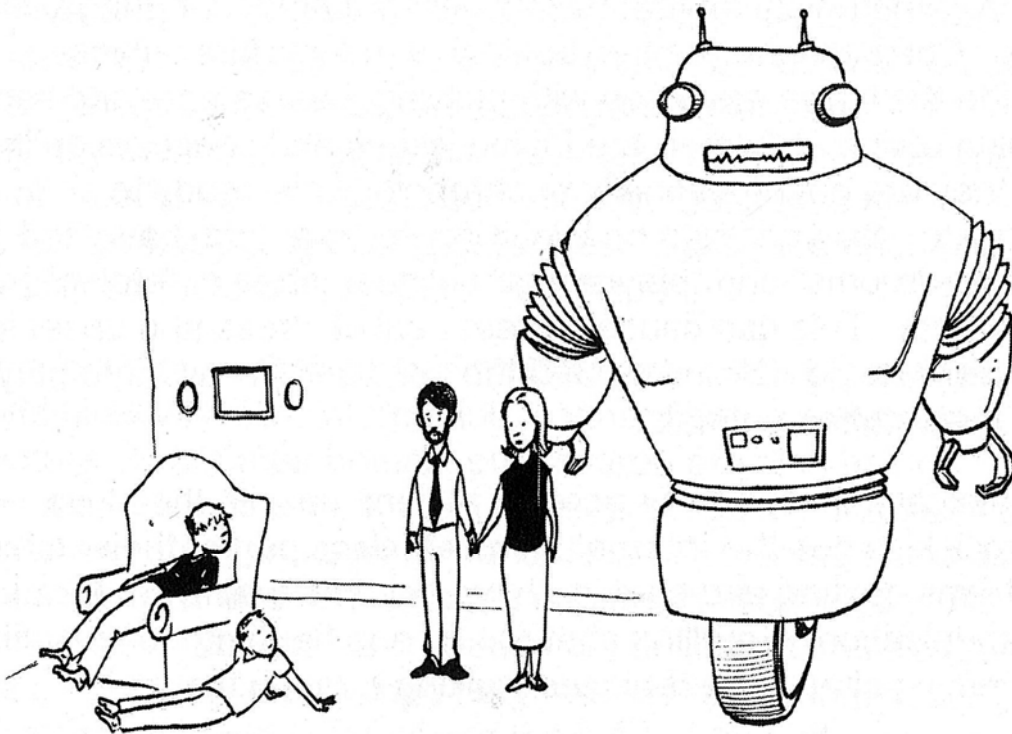
Facebook Effect Presentation by Lisa Sjogren http://wiki.ties.k12.mn.us/TIES09_110

The Rules of Facebook [Excerpts from Facebook Effect Presentation]:

1. Make friends with your friends list.
2. Never let your boss, ex-boyfriend, or grandma know that you drink, swear, or punch your husband.
3. Facebook, Bing, and Google are the newest members of the interviewing committee.
4. Tag on the playground had one set of rules, tag in the 21st century has a different set.

5. Just because we have been friends since we were five, doesn't mean you should post pictures from junior high.
6. I will not give you sympathy when I read, "It's Complicated"
7. No one cares if you gained a level in Mafia Wars.
8. There are other annoying things you can do with your time. In other words, I don't want a play-by-play
9. Before you get sent to the principal's office, know what is going on first.
10. Never be guilty by association.

Additional Resources at <http://www.brynathynchurchschool.org/esafety.html> including general information, Books and DVD's to borrow from BACS, and webinars.



"Your father and I are going out. This is MZ-7000 and he is going to keep an eye on your internet activity until we get the parental control software updated on the computer."