

Caribbean ICT Road Show

Topic

“What Parents Don’t Know”

St. Kitts and Nevis

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Presented by
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1. What is the Virtual World offering our young children?

- Opportunities
- Challenges

2. What parents do not know?

3. Advice and tips on what you and your parents can do.

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- Our children are our Nation's most valuable asset. They represent the bright future of our country and hold our hopes for a better Nation. Our children are also the most vulnerable members of society. Protecting our children against the fear of crime and from becoming victims of crime must be a national policy.

Taken from the FBI Publications - A Parent Guide to Internet Safety



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- Unfortunately the same advances in computer and telecommunication technology that allow our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and cultural experiences are also leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by predators.

Opportunities

1. Knowledge – Information
2. Research opportunities
3. Establish contacts – Social Networking - locally and internationally
4. Exposure to people of different cultures
5. File sharing Programmes – downloading positive material
6. Email etiquette – improves writing skills
7. Hand/eye co-ordination in general improves reflexes
8. Preparing for the World of Work – skills/knowledge enhances career opportunities

Challenges

- Information & Research
 - Sites – inappropriate content
 - Inaccurate data and validity
 - Seek proper journals and e.g. reputable sites
 - University libraries

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Challenges

Social Networking - Giving out Personal Information makes it easy for predators

- Sexual exploitation
- Verbal abuse
- Cyber bullying
- Seducing children with gifts etc.

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Challenges

File Sharing

- Lime wyre software

Financial Information

Downloading of illegal music

Viruses – Malicious

Poor Email Etiquette

- Use of negative language

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What Parents Do Not Know

- 1. Parents can use Parental Control Software e.g. websites blocking, content filtering, online time management ,instant message recording, email monitoring etc.**
- 2. Parents can control Internet restrictions using the Internet Browser**
- 3. Parents can select an Internet Provider that offers built in parental controls e.g. AOL, MSN Premium, etc.**
- 4. Parents can review the history list in Internet Explorer to see sites visited on the Web**

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What Parents Do Not Know

- 5. Parents can have software configured to allow only approved contacts**
- 6. Parent must keep lines of communication open with children**
- 7. Parent can familiarize themselves with popular websites e.g. MySpace, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, etc**
- 8. Parents can create a Family Account like on Yahoo to monitor children**

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What Parents Do Not Know

- 9. Parents can keep the computer in a common room to enable easily monitoring.**
- 10. Parents can educate themselves so that they can monitor, manage and administer children's computer**

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Parents Should

- Encourage discussion about internet activity
- Ask to see pictures that they may be posting
- Join their networking site and add them as a friend so you can monitor their content
- Not allow their young children to join social networking sites or chat related sites until they believe that they are mature enough to be responsible with their interaction.

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Parents Should

- Let children know that personal information such as phone numbers and home addresses must not be published online
- Have computers settings set at high and password protected, clearly identifying the types of sites that should be blocked.

• • Parents should recognise negative behaviour

- Lack of sleep, tiredness and irritability are all signs of extra hours online.
- Secretive behaviour such as , closing laptop screens, closing web pages and protective behaviour about internet information are signs of destructive internet behaviour and interaction.
- Websites such as twitter and other mini blogs encourage withdrawal from personal social interaction because the virtual becomes more important.
- Online predators usually ask children to be secretive about there interactions because their parents may not understand.

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Internet Tips

- **Children should not be online without permission and supervision.**
- **Communicating to someone online who is not known to his/her parents and familiar to the child should be prohibited.**
- **Giving address information or any location information online is not allowed.**

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Wrap-Up

Always remember to:

- Educate yourself and your children about the Cyberspace
- Contact the police if your child has received pornographic material via the Internet or if they suspect he/she has been the target of an online sex predator
- Obtain information from websites recommended by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) through its Children Online Protection Programme. This can be accessed from our website at www.tatt.org.tt