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“Don’t Take Candy From Strangers” What Parents Need to Know about MySpace

By Bill Wardell

Table Of Contents

Foreword.....	3
Preface.....	5
First Lessons.....	7
What is MySpace.....	8
Too Much Information.....	10
Catching the Crooks.....	12
What Parents Can Do.....	13
Not Just MySpace.	16
Point in case: Face book.....	17
Not All a Horror Show.....	19
Testimonials.....	20
Resources Used in this Book.....	26

Foreword

Parenting: The More Things Change, the More They Are the Same

by Dr. Neill Neill, Psychologist, Author and Parent

You are hardwired to care for and protect your children so that they survive and grow into healthy adults. 'Twas always thus. I was a child once. Now I have children and grandchildren.

What has changed over the generations is the nature of the hazards that each generation of children face. Each generation of parents has to learn how to guide and protect their children from hazards that they did not themselves see as hazards when they were kids. In fact, new hazards arise that didn't even exist a generation earlier. Witness: cars, hard drugs for kids and AIDS in the twentieth century, and online predators in the twenty-first century.

When I was a child and teen in the 50s, I hitchhiked everywhere: within cities, intercity and even across the country. I started intercity hitchhiking around age 11. I made a solo intercity journey by train when I was six.

What I did was considered safe. It wasn't safe, although it may have been when my parents were growing up. I had a few close calls with sexual predators and drunk drivers, but I survived. Some of my friends did not survive those years. I was well into adulthood before I realized how much danger I was in.

Later as a parent of teens I really tried to educate my children about the hazards of hitchhiking. Unfortunately, I was oblivious to the reality of what drugs were doing to children in the 70s and 80s. I was going by memories of the flower children and their 'harmless' drug experimentation of the 60s.

And now comes online, social-networking hangouts such as *MySpace* that kids of today love so much.

It seems that each cohort of parents is a generation out of date about what are the current hazards to our children. And every generation of parents struggles to catch up in recognizing the new hazards.

Bill Wardell's **Don't Take Candy From Strangers**, What Parents Need to Know about MySpace is an important step in helping you as a parent understand the current generation of hazards that did not even exist when you were growing up. **Don't Take Candy From Strangers** is a short, well-thought-out crash course on what you need to know about *MySpace* to guide and protect your children from the very real dangers that lurk there.

The Internet, including MySpace, can provide huge benefits to your kids' growth and education. I am impressed with how well **Don't Take Candy From Strangers** balances the good with the bad. But make no mistake, if you are to fulfill your biological imperative to love and protect your children through to adulthood, you need the information in this little book and you need to act on it now.

I can't help but wonder how many of our young would be saved from debilitating trauma or death if **Don't Take Candy From Strangers**, What Parents Need to Know about My Space were in the hands of every parent today.

Dr. Neill Neill, Registered Psychologist, maintains an active [psychology and life-coaching practice](#) on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada. He is a member of the treatment team at [Sunshine Coast Health Centre](#), an alcohol and drug treatment center for men. Visit <http://www.neillneill.com> for other articles and commentary on practical psychology, including parenting.

Preface

I am first and foremost a parent, but I am also an online business owner, publisher and researcher, and I am totally aware of most all of the goings-on of the Internet. There are very scary things going on in the online world. One wrong decision, and your child's safety can be taken away or invaded and it happens in mere seconds! One moment your child is safe and the next someone has snatched them away!

The new way of communicating on the Internet is interactive social networks and online communities. The most popular among these virtual hangouts is MySpace.com, whose membership increases by 10's of thousands daily. Did you know that the MySpace craze was started by couple of friends wanting a place to hang out with their buddies to talk and chat about their favorite music acts, in the California area where they live? It's amazing how quickly an online community can grow; it has the ability to expand the network of users at light speed on the Internet. When you think that just 2-3 years ago MySpace was created and now today there are over 150 million registered users. MySpace uses the same creative core environment and infrastructure that it started with. There are literally 1000's of music acts being discovered daily by users, publishers, and record companies.

Just like the real world, there are good and bad people, and usually the percentages show that there is a very small ratio of bad vs. good. The old adage of one bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bunch is a fact, but the stench of the bad still lingers. When people get used to the stench, they start to accept it. You've heard the saying: "Pigs don't know Pigs stink", it's so true. When we as a society tolerate the pre-meditated actions of a few bad apples, we are going to get exactly what we deserve. We have to start today and commit to make changes in how we treat cyber criminals NOW!

With the creation of MySpace and all the new Social Bookmarking, Tag Clouds, and networking systems, we are seeing new and evolved trends in not only communication, but also in fraudulent activities. We are going to have to change with the times and change fast, especially in all aspects of online security. It's time to say: "enough is enough" or scream out from the rooftops that "We're not going to Take IT Anymore!!"

We as an Internet family have to band together and force politicians, the Federal Government, and International leaders to make changes in how we treat *Cyber Criminals*.

MySpace is inarguably a valuable tool and a creative outlet for young people. It's also a great way to have fun chatting with people from around the world. The important thing is to use common sense—the Internet is not as secure or safe as many people imagine it to be. A good rule of thumb is: if you wouldn't give out personal information to someone you just met at a club, don't give it out online either. Spread the word—it's time to make MySpace a safe space.

Thank you for your support, we hope you enjoy this book and that it is a valuable resource now and in the future. We hope this ebook makes a significant difference for everyone who reads it. If this ebook saves just one child from being kidnapped, molested, or worse, it will have made all the difference in the world! — ***Bill Wardell***

Introduction

First Lessons

The first lessons you probably teach your toddler are to be wary of people he or she does not know, stay with a trusted adult in public places, only get into cars with people you know, “Don’t Take Candy From Strangers”. Within the past few years, it has been apparent that these youngsters, now in their teens, have all but forgotten the rules.

Strangers are invading our homes at an alarming rate through the Internet. Although you may have never heard of it, ask any teen and he or she knows about and is probably a member of one of the largest web communities, MySpace.

The new breed of Internet child predators also knows where the hot spots are and they are getting off the streets and logging into online communities in order to carefully select innocent victims. With a little creativity, these criminals are now offering cyber-candy to your children, and more often than not, they don’t hesitate to eat it.

According to a poll done by the Polly Klaas Foundation, half of children aged 8-18 regularly talk with a friend they’ve never met in person. While this can be a fun or educational experience, if teens are not taught proper Internet safety by parents, MySpace can be dangerous.

What is MySpace

So what exactly is MySpace? This is the premier at home “hang-out spot” for many teens and young adults today. Basically, MySpace is a network of people over 150 million strong and growing everyday. Users can create an online profile to send messages and talk to friends from all over the world.

MySpace Components

Interests and Personality: “About Me,” “Who I’d like to Meet,” interests, heroes, and favorite music, movies, TV shows, and books.

Name: display name, includes real first and last name for search purposes only

Basic Info: gender, birthday, city, country, state, zip code, ethnicity, body type, height, and what the user is looking for (dating, serious relationships, friends, or networking)

Background and Lifestyle: marital status, sexual orientation, hometown, religion, smoking and drinking preferences, children, education level, and income

Schools/Companies: colleges and high schools attended, workplaces

Networking: fields of interest for business purposes

Profile Song: background music

MySpace is alluring because it is free. Users need to be of a certain age, but no one really checks, so it’s easy to lie about that, and even create a fully fictional alter ego. MySpace is simply a tool that can be used to find jobs, keep in touch with old friends, and meet new people.

Users have eight components to their profiles (see box at left), as well as the ability to upload pictures and videos and to keep an online journal, known to the Internet world as a “blog.” Users can also join groups, which are communities within MySpace that allow users to come together under a common interest or for a common cause. Because creating a MySpace gives users the opportunity to share lots of personal information, this web service can be very dangerous for teens. However, MySpace gives users many opportunities as well.

First and foremost, MySpace is a way to keep in touch with friends. This is especially useful for recent high school graduates, since the service allows these youths to stay in contact with friends who have enrolled in college, joined the military, or otherwise moved away from home. MySpace also helps bridge the high school/college gap—users are able to keep in touch with their younger friends who have not yet graduated. This is important for a number of reasons. College users help promote their schools, and groups exist to help high schoolers find information about the many college choices available. For example, a high school senior who is considering New York University can search users to find people from their high school who have also attended New York University.

They can ask advice on the school, or even schedule visits to learn about the university from someone who grew up in a similar area.

How do users do this? The most common tools used on MySpace are listed in the box on the right. Anyone who signs up to create a profile can use these services to contact other members. There are many advantages to this outside of the “keeping in touch with friends” realm. For instance, MySpace users who are job hunting can network with other users to find opportunities.

<u>MySpace Tools</u>	
Send Messages:	an email system
Instant Message:	a real-time communication system
Add to Friends:	joins the user to your special list of user profiles
Comment:	allows you to write a short comment on another user’s profile for everyone to see
Bulletin:	Sends a memo to everyone you’ve added as a friend

This is especially useful for freelance artists who can use MySpace to learn about writing competitions, open casting calls, art gallery openings, and other freelance news. Artists can also use MySpace to find collaborators, who often live thousands of miles away.

MySpace also gives users the opportunity to simply connect with others who have the same

interests. Those who love watching *Grey’s Anatomy* may log on to discuss the latest episode with other fans. Trekkies can share information about upcoming conventions. Cooks can trade recipes. However, here’s where the waters can get muddied.

Some of the largest networking groups on MySpace are centered on being single or looking for significant others. MySpace can, indeed, be a wonderful resource for adults looking to connect with others with similar interests and in a near-by location. Youths, on the other hand, are exploiting this as a dating free-for-all, and because age requirements are not policed, often time’s 14-year-olds find their way into the very same groups as middle-aged singles. Predators have found this to be an amazing tool. By pretending to be 14 as well, an online criminal, scam artist, or sex offender can lure teens and young adults into an inappropriate online relationship or, worse, a face-to-face meeting. The candy they use for bait? None other than the information they’ve gathered from your son or daughter’s own profile. Predators no longer even need to work to find information about their victims—it is spelled out for them and it’s only a click away.

Too Much Information

According to a poll done for the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 81% of parents believe that their teens are too careless with the amount of information they give out online. Surprisingly, 79% of online teens agree. The problem with teens that are victimized on MySpace and other websites is that the Internet gives an illusion of safety and anonymity. Neither is true, in fact. More information about you and your family can be found on the Internet than by following a paper trail, and this information can be found faster and more easily with the use of a computer. Do a quick test—go to www.google.com, one of the Internet's largest and most popular search engines, and type in your name or your child's name. In many cases, a number of websites will come up, including some that list personal information such as your address and phone number. Predators use not only this website, but also subscription databases to find information about potential victims. To do this, however, they need a starting point, and MySpace provides just that if you or your child included too much information to others.

MySpace was never intended to be an unsafe place, and the site is actually becoming safer every day—not because the program itself is changing, but because users, and their parents, are becoming more educated about the ways in which this website should be used. To fully understand this, one needs an in-depth look at MySpace profiles and communities. By evaluating the pieces of this website, you can teach your teen the right and wrong ways to use it.

First, users are asked to fill out multiple sections of information about themselves. The most dangerous of these is called “About Me.” In this block of text, each MySpace user has the chance to talk about themselves in whatever context they'd like. The most popular thing to do with this space is to simply write a paragraph describing yourself. Other people choose to include song lyrics, poetry, quotes, and html codes. Codes give the profile it's unique colors and designs. This may seem innocent enough (and it can be), but users often forget how easy it is to extract minute pieces of information from this section for predatory use. For example, even if you do not list your location, if you talk about your high school spirit and list your mascot in your “About Me” section, others will be easily made aware of your hometown.

However, this usually isn't a problem, since most users list their location without a second thought. Some even go as far as to give out street addresses, phone numbers, and school schedules. This may be convenient if your son or daughter uses MySpace to create study groups for class, but remember that this information is given to the general public. Not only do the people you want to see this information see it, but the people you try to avoid see it as well.

Pictures are troubling on their own. Users can upload 12 pictures onto their profile with no approval from the site administrators. And while MySpace officials do their best to patrol the picture traffic for pornographic images, quick removal is not always possible. Follow the below-listed checklist for safely adding pictures to a profile:

Smart MySpace Picture Choices: A Checklist

- Use headshots. School or professional photographs work well for this.
- Show little skin in the pictures.
- Check with friends before uploading photographs in which they are pictured, even if the photograph is innocent.
- Do not show local landmarks or your home in your pictures. This tips off stalkers who may be looking for you.
- Do not picture yourself intoxicated, under the influence of drugs, or in other vulnerable situations.
- Check the backgrounds of photographs for revealing personal information before uploading.

There are, after all, millions of profiles to browse. Some pictures cannot even be removed under the "No Pornography" rule—they are risqué, but show no nudity. This is what attracts predators to the site in the first place. Believe it or not, it's likely that your teen has included "sexy" photographs. The main goal of many teens is to get as many friends as possible, and this can be done only if your profile is interesting.

One way to make it interesting is mature content. There's not much that MySpace officials can do about this; it's up to parents to monitor their kids' sites.

It can start innocently enough with a picture showing your daughter making kissing motions at the camera, but can escalate quickly to pictures in bathing suits or lingerie, backwards-facing topless shots, or pictures of cleavage. Boys aren't being innocent either. Although they are less often victimized, boys tend to include shirtless photographs where they show off muscles, pictures with their hands down their pants, and images of conveniently-placed bulges below the belt. Both sexes often show pictures of their friends as well, so you need to periodically check your child's friends' sites for inappropriate pictures. If your child is seen in pictures intoxicated or otherwise vulnerable, predators see him or her as an easy target.

Catching the Crooks

To keep yourself and your family safe, you need to be aware of the different ways in which online criminals are using MySpace. It doesn't stop at targeting children for sex or online relationships. Savvy crooked users can also learn to use MySpace to steal your identity. New scams are being discovered every day, so if you use MySpace, you have to keep up with all the new threats daily, concerning downloads in order to protect yourself.

For example, one of the newest and most dangerous online MySpace scams installs spyware onto your computer when you think you are getting a fun new MySpace tool. These messages, sent to your MySpace account as emails or bulletins, advertise what is known as a MySpace tracker or counter. This tool, so the advertisement says, allows you to track who has viewed your profile page. MySpacers who are curious as to who views their page, as well as how often, need only to download simple programs, for free.

As with most things, this seems too good to be true for many MySpace users. And, well, it is. A program that allows you to track views probably does exist, but the one being advertised in the emails and bulletins is just a scam. Users download the program and nothing happens—or so it seems. In fact, this program installs spyware onto your computer, giving online criminals the ability to steal your passwords as well as any other information you type on the Internet, including credit card or social security numbers. Even if you use trustworthy online shopping sites, such as eBay, you cannot be protected if the spyware is downloaded directly onto your computer.

However, this type of identity theft seems mild when faced with the reality that your son or daughter could be endangering his or her life. The statistics are scary. In 2002, Detective Chief Superintendent Keith Akerman of the United Kingdom estimated that one in five children who use chat rooms were approached online with sexual solicitations. One in 33 of these solicitations were aggressive, in which the predators asked the child to meet, talk on the phone, or give out addresses for gifts via mail. Now, do you want the really frightening truth? Only a quarter of these children told a parent about the sexual solicitation they received.

The problem is that the Internet just doesn't seem like a bad place. There's a certain amount of security young adults feel when chatting online—no one can see them, so it doesn't feel real. However, there can be very real consequences. It is estimated that one in eight children who have been talking to a friend online find out later that this friend is actually much older and pretending to be young. Youths admit that this is rarely reported to parents for fear that they will be banned from using chatrooms online or banned from the Internet completely.

What Parents Can Do

The key for parents is to learn to keep a watchful eye on Internet activity while still maintaining their distance. This can be a tricky task, considering that 64% of teens admitted in the Polly Klaas poll that they do things online that they wouldn't want their parents to know about. However, there are a number of ways parents can keep their kids safe without being too aggressive:

Keep Your Kids Safe: A Checklist

- ❑ Speak with your child about safety rules
 - ❑ Use an Internet filter.
 - ❑ Stay updated on Internet scams.
- ❑ Subscribe to MySpace and become your child's friend.

These four simple ways of protecting your child can make a difference long after he or she has left the house. Safe practices become routine and your child will continue to use caution on the Internet when he or she moves on to adulthood.

The first step, talking to your child about Internet rules, is crucial. Set down some firm household rules, and also go over some common sense rules, no matter how simple they might seem. Depending on your child's age and maturity level, Internet rules can be lenient or very strict. However, no matter how responsible your child is in real life, you should still monitor their online activity—again, the Internet gives teens false security and he or she may act differently online than in real life. In any case, a list of rules to consider in your household is found in the box at the right. The last rule is very important. Many teens will clear the history upon logging off. The history tool allows you to see all the websites that have been viewed within the past day, week, and month. Parents can use this to not only see whose MySpace profiles their children are viewing, but what other material is being seen as well.

Internet Rules to Consider

- The Internet may only be used when a parent is home and awake.
- Emails must be received through a family email account, or parents must be given access to their child's email password.
- MySpace may only be used with people your child personally knows—no online strangers.
- MySpace accounts must be made private, so users who are not your child's friend may not view their profile.
- Online history may not be cleared.

The Internet, after all, should be an educational tool for your children. MySpace is a fun website to use for networking, but through the online contacts they've met online, children may be given links to racy material, such as pictures, programs, games or even worse pornography sites. If this is the case, you as a parent may want to consider using an Internet filter. These programs can be purchased online or in electronics stores and can be set up to block anything inappropriate. Internet filters, however, may also inadvertently deny you access to some sites, which are, in fact, educational. For example, children doing school reports for a sex education class or about drug use may find that the educational websites they need to use are blocked. Exercise caution here—they are blocked for a reason. When the Internet filter is turned off, monitor your child's usage closely.

The third step to keep your child safe is to become educated about Internet scams. The MySpace tracker scam profiled previously is just one of many online frauds used by Internet thieves. They attack not only children, but adults as well, so it is important to use the Internet in a secure way. Regularly read up on the new information regarding online criminals and sexual predators to find out the new techniques they are using online. Most importantly, share this information with the teens in your life. Reading real-life stories about other kids who have been abducted may help your child understand the dangers of carelessness on the Internet.

Lastly, subscribe to MySpace for yourself. The only way you can learn about this networking system is by becoming a part of it. Let your child know you are doing this. The point is not to catch your child in the act of giving out personal information or holding inappropriate online relationships, but to prevent this activity in the first place. Learn how to use

Common Internet Phrases

POS or P911: parent over shoulder

A/S/L: age, sex, and location?

LOL: laugh out loud

BRB: be right back

:-*: kiss

GTG: got to go

TTYL: talk to you later

L8r: later

For a more complete list [click here](#)

the site and become educated on teen activities online, such as chatting. Teens use, for instance, a variety of select [Internet phrases](#) when speaking with online friends, and if parents do not understand them, they could be left in the dust, wondering what is going on. In a study done by Cox Communications, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and NetSmartz shows that over 57% of parents of children aged 13-17 with a computer in the home could not decipher simple Internet language. Of course, some of this language is purely innocent, such as “LOL,” which means, “laugh out loud” and simply indicated that what the person previously said was funny.

However, others, such as “POS,” can be dangerous. POS, or parent over shoulder (also interchangeable with P911) is used to indicate that you are watching and the other person should be parent-friendly.

This is a very good resource to use for learning about the entire net lingo that our children are using on a daily basis! Also, parents are learning how to use this same system lingo it's just amazing that we have become a generation X of adult cell phone textures ;) lol



Again, most likely this is innocent and your child is simply discussing school crushes or wants to prevent the other person from cursing, but this could indicate inappropriate speech as well. By learning Internet language (see box at the left to get started), as well as becoming familiar with MySpace and other teen-oriented websites, parents can successfully regulate their children's personal computer use. No matter how well you think you know your child, he or she may engage in cyber-sex with online strangers or other risky behavior.

Not Just MySpace

Of course, MySpace isn't the only site that caters to teens, and it's definitely not the only way predators can find their way to your home through an Internet connection. Teens also participate in other online communities, blogging sites, and dating sites. Although this may start out as simply a fun way to keep in touch with friends, it quickly can escalate. 31% of high school students have admitted to pretending to be older on a website, according to a study done by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Dangerous activity by young people does not stop with high school teens, unfortunately. Current college students, who were at the beginning of the Internet community generation, have often not learned proper ways to stay safe and many websites cater towards their growing communication needs.

Point in case: Facebook

This Internet community is exclusively for college students (although there is a growing high school section as well). Users need to be enrolled in school to sign up, and can post pictures and information on a personal profile that is similar to MySpace. Facebook is specially suited to college students by allowing them to list classes and join groups on campus who have a page on the website. It's an invaluable way to connect with others for projects, but too often, students accept people as friends who they do not know. Anyone involved in college life can join, not just students, so administrators and professors, as well as others with a college email account can join as well.

Popular among college and high school students, as well as other young people, are blogging websites. "Blog" is a word of the new generation—literally, it's a shortened form of the term "web log," which basically is an online journal. MySpace provides a blogging tool, and there are many websites that are set up exclusively for blogs, including Xanga and LiveJournal (commonly called "LJ"). These personal records of the day are uncensored in most cases, and users spill their guts, many times revealing secrets they wouldn't normally share with their friends, let alone the public. Predators can use this personal information to develop an online relationship with a user, since most teens who surf the Internet use the same username for all of these networking websites or provide links from one profile to another.

Safe Online Dating: A Checklist

- Never lie about your age to seem younger or older.
- Don't immediately believe everything a person tells you online.
- Report inappropriate behavior, such as sexual solicitation or pornographic pictures/links.
- If you decide to meet someone in real life, meet at a public place during the daytime, such as at a mall or busy restaurant.
- When meeting someone in person, be sure that a friend knows where you are going and when to expect you back.

Those who look to victimize teens, therefore, can use information from a blog, such as a love for a specific hobby, to start a conversation. By pretending to enjoy similar activities, foods, music, movies, and the like, predators can easily convince teens that they are not only many years younger, but safe. These men and women also hunt through blogs for personal information such as school names that may help them find their target's location.

The most potent of all of these websites is the dating website. These are used specifically for meeting online strangers and often times go beyond online chatting to face-to-face meetings in the real world. While many advocates of dating websites have actually found successful partners this way, it is not an activity in which teens should be partaking. Most websites have strict age guidelines, but again, it is easy to lie. Predators hunt these sites for people who look young in pictures or seem immature in writing style. The important thing here is to stay safe. Use the following guidelines for dating websites and review the information with your children as well, even if they are currently not old enough to use these sites, which include OkCupid.com, eHarmony.com, and Dating.com.

Pornography sites have always been a problem among Internet users. Children who look up an innocent keyword for homework purposes are often redirected by accident to pornography. This is especially dangerous when you take into account that, according to humantrafficking.org, over 18,000 people, mostly women and children, in the United States alone become part of black market human trafficking trade rings. Most are used for pornographic purposes or as sexual slaves. This statistic isn't nearly as scary as the worldwide human trafficking numbers. Sexual information is violently thrown at children, mostly on the Internet and in the mass media. It is important to discuss with your child what to do if he or she comes across a pornographic site, since one study tells us that an estimated 90% of children have seen pornography on the Internet, whether by accident or not. Internet filter tools can help prevent some of this, by blocking specific words, but even innocent searches can bring these images to your child's eyes.

Not All a Horror Show

It is important to remember that while these threats are all very real, the Internet, MySpace included, is a great tool. Not only can children use Internet resources for homework, but they can also use it for recreational activities, such as keeping in touch with friends or creating personal websites, which promotes creativity. As a parent, you must keep in mind that your child needs to be aware of Internet safety issues in order to get the most out of MySpace and other Internet sites. MySpace can be a great tool if used correctly, or a dangerous weapon if used incorrectly. To be safe, use the following guidelines:

MySpace Safety: Important Points to Remember

- Review safety rules with your children.
- Monitor Internet usage by reading emails, chats, and MySpace profiles.
- Make sure pictures are not sexually revealing or otherwise dangerous.
- Be aware of teen Internet language and trends.
- If you suspect predatory behavior, revoke all non-educational Internet privileges.

Don't be afraid to be the parent. The Internet can be valuable and fun for your children, but safety always needs to come first. There are many bad people in the world who are offering candy—in the form of cyber-sex, pornography, online relationships, scams, and spyware to your children every day. By policing your computer, you can be aware of your child's Internet activities and make sure they are safe and appropriate at all times. If your looking for more solutions to protect your family online, OSA has several recommendations to fit every family's needs for more information visit our website at: http://www.onlinesecurityauthority.com/?page_id=35

Your Online Security Authority

Bill Wardell

Testimonial

At last an E-book that addresses the dangers that children can be exposed to by unsupervised access to the Internet. Every parent should be aware of the dangers that the Internet poses to their children and know how to tackle this evil and spreading problem. Sadly, there have been few constructive efforts by the authorities to inform the public and as a consequence it is hardly surprising that many parents do not even know that their children may be subjected to the corrupting influences of warped and criminally inclined Internet users. There are even reported cases where vulnerable minors have been conned into meeting these people under circumstances that have led to their sexual and physical abuse and even loss of life.

All parents of minors should, as a matter of the greatest importance, familiarize themselves with the ways to prevent their children being exposed to the corrupting influence of the Internet abusers. “Don’t Take Candy From Strangers” is a comprehensive guide to the opportunities that the Internet opens to those who prey on young people and the preventative measures that parents must take to safeguard their kids from these predators. Bill Wardell deserves to be congratulated on producing and making available to the public this authoritative E-book.

A must read for all parents.

John Lloyd – Spain – Jacqueline Lloyd

<http://preciousmetalinvestment.com/>

<http://www.eyebautytips.com/>

This E-book focused my attention to a problem that I had not previously given any serious thought and opened my eyes to the ease which personal information that could endanger minors could be accessed. Interesting and informative and yes, it has made me aware of this type of Internet danger and the ways to combat it. I would also keep this E-book on hand for constant reference and as a reminder.

Testimonial

"Don't Take Candy From Strangers" is a book that every parent needs to read. It reveals a solid step-by-step approach to protecting our children from online predators. As parents we need to be proactive in being aware of what our children are doing online and following the approaches outlined in this book we can be."

Melissa Trippel - USA

<http://www.craftyplaces.com>

<http://www.myscrap-n-craft.com>

<http://www.scrapbookaffection.com>

"I really enjoyed the book and will let my friends with children know about Online Security Authority", Melissa

Testimonial

"If you are a parent - sometimes mystified by the ways of the Internet and wondering just what your kids get up to online – read 'Don't Take Candy From Strangers'. Bill explains clearly and with no fuss how easy it is for kids to get into trouble on the Internet without realizing it. Better than that though – he gives you some simple steps to make sure it's not your kid hitting the headlines in the wrong way. An excellent, easy to read book for anyone concerned about online security."

Eileen Gravelle

<http://www.simplyantiaging.com>

Testimonial

Dear Bill,

Thanks for sharing this information with Brandon and I. It was an easy read packed with great information.

Your guide “*Don’t Take Candy From Strangers*” is a great helpmate for parents. As a parent, protecting my children is of utmost importance to me. Your information is straightforward, instructive and easy to apply. The materials you’ve shared will save the innocence of children.

Additionally, as parents we’ll be able to guard our children while they are young. Children can be taught values, ethics and morals when applying the recourses you’ve made available. I would hope that parents take the time to read and apply the information, by doing so I believe this will help ensure more responsible teenager and adults.

I will highly recommend “*Don’t Take Candy From Strangers*”, to my friends and family.

Michelle Taney

<http://www.mediaguests.net/>

I work with authors across the US and set up radio interviews, I think your information would do very well. If you're interested I'd be happy to schedule a couple interviews for you (at no charge) and you can see if you like the radio arena. Let me know.

Testimonial

We have reviewed Bill's book regarding the dangers of unsupervised use of internet by young people and found it to be easy to read and understand and helpful for those less familiar with the internet. We were unaware that there was so much inappropriate material available literally at our children's fingertips. It was nice to have someone else do the research and share their findings with others. After reading it we will be more vigilant in supervising our children's use of the computer.

Steve and Stephanie Merryweather, Heber City, Utah.

Testimonial

As a parent of teens who use the computer, this ebook was an eye opener. I knew the Internet could be a dangerous place but after reading "Don't Take Candy From Strangers" I see it is more dangerous than I thought.

As a child growing up in the 60s I felt safe. We bicycled all over town without fear, played in the neighborhood park, and walked to school from kindergarten through high school.

That isn't the case today. I won't even let my daughter walk the dog or bicycle around the block alone. Yet she has a computer sitting in her room with an Internet connection. This is just as dangerous, or perhaps even more dangerous, than walking around the block alone. And I am responsible for her safety while she is online.

We as parents must protect our children from online predators. Bill Wardell has given us the information in this ebook that we need to guard our home from those who are using the Internet to steal our children. Now it's up to us to take his advice and put it into practice.

Carol Stack

<http://www.christysdogportal.com>

Testimonial

"Don't Take Candy From Strangers" is an indispensable tool for parents of computer-savvy teenagers. Kids today know so much more than most of their parents – this book gives parents the chance to catch up. It is written in a straightforward honest easy-to-read manner that helps parents become more aware of the potential dangers of their children's online activities. It offers an informative narrative along with checklists and rules for computer usage by minors. No parent of a teenager should be without this invaluable guide. Use it regularly. You'll be glad you did.

Larry Zarou

www.kidswatch.com

Testimonial

Internet filters - Don't rely on them, or think that it will stop bad behavior. Check the computer after a session and make sure that it is logging and working well. Kids that are very tech savvy can disable the logging. So to ensure that they have not done anything to the system make sure to check it once in a while. If you have more than one computer (child owns his/her own computer) then you must be even more careful since anyone with administrator privilege can stop a filter from working.

When picking out a filter, one that has categories is best because if you need to stop some of the categories but not others you can. I've used a router that had filtering built in. (each person had a login and it would filter web sites, Aim, and Emails).

You also might want to point out that more and more employers are looking for a mySpace account to screen potential employees. So anything that is out there on the Internet should be considered public.

Todd Sieland-Peterson

<http://tagalizer.com>

<http://teacherslittlehelper.org>

Testimonial

A short time ago I had the opportunity to read an article written by Bill Wardell entitled Don't Take Candy from Strangers. After reading this I felt that it was so good and had so much information in it that I decided to sit my two boys down and read it aloud. In the past I had some problems with my oldest son, age fifteen being on some different types of sites on the Internet.

At first, like most kids they did not want to read what their parents were interested in, so they were not happy to read aloud. But, as we continued to get further into it, I could see that my oldest son was taking notice as to what I said. When we were done, I can attest to how and why I feel it helped my family in terms of what can really happen on the Internet. I think that every family should take the time to sit down and read this well put together information; it will certainly open your eyes.

William Sandoval, Heber City, Utah

Please make sure to register your **KW and OSA Elite Members** copy by emailing: Bill Wardell at OnlineSecurityAuthority@comcast.net in the subject line put **KW and OSA Elite Members**, as this will be your code to receive lifetime updates for free.

If you have any questions or we can assist you in any way, please let us know immediately. Thank you for your participation and feel free to send us a message or testimonial to let us know what you thought about our book.

Bill Wardell
435.654.1916
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What Parents Need to Know about MySpace a Laptop \$900.00
DSL hookup \$50.00 a MySpace account Free
Information to protect your child from predators *Pricele\$\$!*
Please Don't let your Child Become a STATISTIC!

Resources Used in this Book

1. Comments and Resources:
 - a. <http://www.protectkids.com/dangers/stats.htm>
 - b. http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/152/report_display.asp
 - c. <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/results.pdf>
 - d. http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/united_states_of_america

2. Internet Phrases and Acronyms:
 - a. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_slang_phrases
 - b. <http://familyinternet.about.com/od/sharingonline/a/acronyms.htm>

3. How do I block mySpace?
 - a. How do I block mySpace and similar websites? There are many ways to accomplish this task, but first lets find out if you really want to completely block sites like these or if want to restrict access by children, or allow your teens access and monitor their online behavior. *For more info please click this link:* http://www.onlinesecurityauthority.com/?page_id=35

4. Most Highly Recommend: KidsWatch™
 - a. Manage your child's computer time with KidsWatch™ use the promotional discount for OSA visitors provided on the site it is pmysguide type in for a \$5.00 off software!
 - b. We have searched Internet high and low for the one and only "absolutely the best" all-round solution for your child's online safety, and we've found it! www.kidswatch.com
 - c. We liked this company's philosophy so much that we have created a partnership with them, to deliver you the very best tools, KidsWatch™ is one of America's leading Parental Control Software packages!