

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Facts and Tips on Smart Phone Safety for Parents

FACTS:

73% of 12-17 year olds have a cell phone.

1 in 4 are smart phones.

On average teens send and receive 1,500 text messages a month. An average of 50 a day.



Does your family follow the 3 C's of Internet Safety?

Contact—does your child really know that person they are friending?

Content—is the content your child watching age-appropriate?

Conduct—is your child bullying or being bullied by others while online?

These 4 popular apps are often used by predators to groom children and teens for sexual abuse and sex trafficking:

Snapchat

Kik Messenger

Facebook

Instagram

Parents should manage the account settings on these apps to limit how they are used by their children. Parents should also use the phones' settings to control and monitor usage.



Risks for children using Smart Phones:

Cyberbullying—your child may be more susceptible or have more opportunities to cyberbully others.

Geolocation—can reveal your child's location through online posts and uploaded photos.

Inappropriate content—your child has mobile access to pornography or violent videos.

Sexting—your child may use their phone to send, receive or forward revealing photos.

Apps parents can use to help keep kids safe:

Mobile Guardian

Screen Time

Qustodio

Net Nanny

Zoodles Kid Mode

Teensafe

MMGuardian

Check out these and other parental control apps at your Apple or Google store.



Diocese of Erie

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth

<http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>