

CYBERSAFETY

Step #1 is to become aware – learn how your child uses the Internet. Ask your child for an education on the Internet – whether you are an Internet novice or a technology guru, there are probably things they know about the Internet that you don't! Web sites, chatrooms, bulletin boards, IMing, e-mail – there is a lot to learn about the “information superhighway.” The Internet is a powerful tool, and like anything else, kids need to be careful. Although most youth who use the Internet have no trouble, we want students and parents to know the following:

- 1 in 5 young Internet users received an unwanted *SEXUAL* solicitation in the past year - 2/3 were female*
- 49% never told anyone about the unwanted sexual solicitation*
- 25% of surveyed youth reported unwanted exposures to sexual material – 67% of this occurred at home*

Listening carefully and learning from our young people is an important part of the role parents, guardians and teachers. In light of the power of the Internet, we need to protect our young people by listening and learning more about **Cyber Safety**. For more Internet safety information and to take a “cyberbullying” quiz visit www.wiredsafety.org.

* Internet Safety Facts from the US Dept. of Justice