

Internet Safety Awareness for Caregivers

- \$ There is a 1264% increase in sex crimes in recent years due to the Internet.
- \$ 25% of youth ages 10-13 get unsolicited material on the Internet and do not tell their parents.
- \$ One study of 13-18-year-olds showed that all had been approached for on-line sex.
- \$ The average age for pornography exposure is 10-13. Adult sex offenders were more likely to have been exposed to pornography at the early age of 6-8 and their parents more likely to have had pornography in the house. This age of 6-8 is also the average age that they started offending.

(Source: Cory Jewell Jensen, Center for Behavioral Intervention, Beaverton, OR)

Monitor your children's Internet access carefully. It is best to locate the computer in a high-traffic area and for caregivers to check children/teen's online history regularly. Online, youth may encounter explicit material, adult and child pornography, sexual predators, graphic images of violence, information about offensive or illegal activities, etc. Inform yourself of the risks by reading materials and attending available trainings. Develop family rules around Internet use.

See www.Netsmartz.org or http://www.safekids.com/parent_guidelines.htm for more information. You can also attend an internet safety workshop focusing on protecting your children from online crime. See www.salemkeizer.org or contact Debbie Joa, Salem-Keizer Public Schools Prevention and Protection Coordinator at 503-399-3061.

You can also obtain two brochures, *Child Safety on the Information Highway* and *Teen Safety on the Information Highway* through www.missingkids.com.

Questions? Call Liberty House Child Abuse Assessment Center, Family Support Services 503-540-0288.

