

RULES 'N TOOLS(SM) TIP OF THE DAY

Use Parental Controls on your Child's Gaming Devices: Parental control features available through your child's gaming console or through your computers' account settings, allow you to control:

Who your children play games with;
What games your children play both offline and online (you can allow or block games based on rating or you can choose to allow or block specific games); and,
When your child can play games (through time limiting software)

NEWSFLASH

Video Games are the New Frontier for Sexual Predators

"Where kids play, the predators are going to prey. All the latest technologies and all the latest games are going to draw the predators and the kids to the same places."

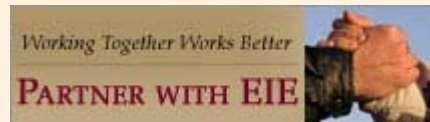


Chad Gallagher, FBI Child Exploitation Squad, pictured with Holly Hawkins of AOL and EIE President Donna Rice Hughes



Learn How to Protect Your Child Online!

Visit our website for the [Rules 'N Tools\(sm\)](#)



[Partner with Enough Is Enough](#) and together we can effect change!

Has Your Child Encountered Dangers Online?

Has your child been a victim of, or averted online exploitation at the hands of an Internet predator, pornographer, or cyberbully? [Tell us your story](#)

Multiplayer Gaming Examples

FBI officials are investigating a number of cases in which sexual predators have used online gaming systems including Wii, PlayStation and Xbox to find victims. According to FBI forensic examiner Douglas Roden, online gaming communities are the "new hunting ground" where predators prey upon children.

- Late last year, the FBI arrested a 30-year old Dayton, Ohio, woman who allegedly used an Xbox 360 to send naked pictures of herself to a 16-year old in Arizona. Police said she then was able to persuade the teen to send her naked pictures of him. ("Video Games New Frontier for Sexual Predators." [WAPT.com News \(ABC\). 1 May 2008.](#))

Parents may not realize that gaming consoles operate in much the same way as a computer or that savvy kids can bypass parental controls. As Marc Rogers, director of Purdue University's Cyber Forensic Lab said, "Police who have been doing stings in Internet chat rooms for years now are going undercover to catch predators playing interactive games ranging from Grand Theft Auto to old fashioned chess and checkers".

- Earlier this year, a man in Utah was charged with sexual exploitation of a minor for enticing a 12-year old boy he met through an online game into having sex.
- In December, Michigan prosecutors convicted Adam Glenn Schroeder of criminal sexual conduct with a minor and using a computer to commit a crime. He used World of Warcraft to lure a 12-year-old girl into having sex with him. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.
- In another case, a 10 year old boy playing the Halo Xbox game got a video message from a man that showed adults engaged in a sex act. (Koch, Wendy. "Predators use gaming consoles to 'get foot in the door.'" [USA Today. 2 July 2008.](#))



Dear Friend,

Remember when children used to play games... outside? Technology has revolutionized the way our children play games. Children see the online



Internet Checkers



Halo 3



Grand Theft Auto IV



Final Fantasy XIII



Everquest II

gaming world as a virtual playground; they can log online, put on the headset and talk to and play with five million gamers around the world. Just as playing games outside with our friends could teach us real-life lessons, online games can build communities, teach competition and may include educational content. Unfortunately, sex, violence, language, and anti-social behavior are common elements for many games, and law enforcement has noticed that sexual predators are now using gaming devices to target children.

During filming for Enough Is Enough's (EIE) Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents Program, FBI Child Exploitation Officers and teens alike reported about the many dangers associated with online gaming.

"Some of the games have an instant messenger feature... and you don't know who's on that... it could be anyone... some of them are role-playing games where you play a character, but there may be 2000 characters on the same [game]... like a community... so you're talking with them, and that's a good place for sexual predators 'cause you wouldn't expect a 50-year old to be on that game."



Augey, 17, talks with EIE about how teens could be targeted by predators through gaming devices.

As entertaining as interactive gaming can be, parents should be aware that many popular games include voice-masking technology, which police say predators use to make themselves sound like teenagers. The online gaming world can be especially dangerous as predators build shared experiences online, act as child's defender or online teammate, and have access to a wealth of information available about a child's gaming history.

Because of the popularity of gaming among our nation's youth and the need for parents to understand the dangers and associated preventative measures they need to take to protect children gaming devices, we have included a gaming segment in the Internet Safety101: Empowering Parents video. We hope the testimonials of experts, law enforcement and teens included in the 101 video will equip parents to become familiar with the gaming Rules 'N' Tools(SM) they need to employ to help their children enjoy a safe gaming experience.



The Sims



Wii Tennis



Mario Kart for Wii



World of Warcraft

This newsletter is sponsored by Enough Is Enough (EIE), a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which emerged in 1994 as the national leader in online safety. Since then, EIE has pioneered and led the effort to confront online pornography, child pornography, child stalking and sexual predation with innovative initiatives and effective communications.

Internet Safety 101 will be piloted in Virginia to coincide with Virginia Internet Safety Month and the "back to school" season through the support of the Virginia PTA and Verizon this fall, and we are working with partners and affiliation networks to bring this exciting resource to your community through the national launch of "Internet Safety 101" in 2009. Until then, we encourage parents to follow our [Internet Safety Rules 'N' Tools\(SM\)](#).

Visit Us at <http://www.enough.org>

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Stay tuned for more exciting Internet safety information as we work together to preserve an Age of Innocence for our children.

For the Sake of the Children,

The EIE Staff

GAMING TIPS:

- Set time limits
- Make sure your kids are using privacy settings
- Use parental controls
- Know who your child is playing with
- Don't let young kids use voice chat
- Be aware of voice-masking technology
- Talk to your child about coming to you if anyone bullies them, asks them for inappropriate pictures or makes them uncomfortable while playing online games.

BACKGROUND

Since 1994, EIE has been a recognized leader in our nation's effort to protect children & families from Internet pornography & sexual predation. EIE has developed the Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents Program Video, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, to confront this child safety epidemic.

EVENTS

Internet Safety

Month

On July 12, 2008, EIE President Donna Rice Hughes joined Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents Program Partner **Virginia PTA** and Program Sponsor **Verizon** at the annual Leadership Training Conference at Deep Run High School, Glen Allen (in the Richmond District) to announce the Virginia Launch of the Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents Program, to occur during the fall of this year.

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