

News Article

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On The Extension Line

With the times changing it is uncommon for a family to sit down for an evening meal and discuss the events of the day with their children. With so many activities children and parents are often going in many different directions. Communication with children still remains very important however.

Verbal communication has become less important for youth these days as cell phones and computers have advanced. Today nearly 94% of children ages 11-13 have a cell phone and are using text messaging as a form of communication. If the text messaging isn't enough, children have begun chatting with not only their local friends but "friends" from across the world on the internet through social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

As a parent or grandparent, do you know what they are saying or talking about? You cannot hear them or even interpret the codes on the screen. Children have developed their own version of shorthand for communicating with their peers and it is important that adults learn some of it to open lines of communication with your children.

Below are some of the lingo children are using and what they mean:

P911: parents are coming, **BRB**: be right back, **YBS**: you'll be sorry, **TCOB**: taking care of business, **IPN**: I'm posting naked, **GFN**: gone for now, **H&K**: hug and kiss, **IDK**: I don't know, **GAL**: get a life, **B4N**: by for now, **A/S/L**: age, sex, location, **BTW**: by the way, **CUL**: see you later, **JK**: just kidding, **LMSO**: laughing my socks off, **NADT**: not a darn thing, **LOL**: laughing out loud, **LMIRL**: lets meet in real life, **JIC**: just in case, **ILU**: I love you, **L8R**: later, **PAW**: parents are watching, **PLZ**: please, **POS**: parent over shoulder, **SAW**: siblings are watching, **TAW**: teachers are watching, **TMI**: too much information, **WTGP**: want to go private, **WU**: what's up, **TOY**, thinking of you, **WTH**: what the heck
You can find more lingo and their meanings at

http://www.safesurfingkids.com/chat_room_internet_acronyms.htm .

It doesn't stop with learning the lingo. As an adult you should familiarize yourself with the programs your child is using and set guidelines and rules on time limits and who they can communicate with. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 1 in 5 children are sexually solicited online and 65% of these incidents occur in online chat rooms. It is important that children know to not say anything in a chat room that they wouldn't say in public and remember that people are not always who they think they are when they're online. Stay in touch with your child and learn to communicate with them in a way that they are agreeable to.

For more information on internet safety or communicating with children, contact the K-State Research & Extension Office in Brown County at 601 Oregon Street, Hiawatha or at 785-742-7871.

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