

Tip Sheet

## Internet Predators

### *#FCPSDigCit*

A predator can be anyone who exploits an individual's weakness to lure them into situations where they can be blackmailed, exploited, or harmed.

Predators misrepresent themselves and their true intentions. They pose as people that can be trusted. They take their time befriending someone, gathering personal information and other clues so they can lure, blackmail, abuse, kidnap, or exploit their targets.

Students become susceptible to predators when they interact online with strangers and make photos or personal details publicly accessible. Predators use clues about their target's vulnerabilities and whereabouts to get emotionally or physically close.

### Recommended Actions

1. **Visit the organizations** listed on the [FCPS Digital Citizenship: Resources](#) web page
2. **Discuss the tactics and dangers** posed by online predators openly and honestly with students.
3. **Educate yourself** about teen sex trafficking in Northern Virginia by watching the FCPS Fairfax Network program Tricked - <https://www.fcps.edu/node/32026>.
4. Become familiar with **FCPS Violence Prevention and Intervention programs** - <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness>.

### Teach students to:

1. **Set boundaries** when using social-networking sites.
2. **Limit the personal information they reveal** online. This includes e-mail address and other contact information, sports teams, places frequented, or any other information that could allow a stranger to identify or contact them.
3. **Identify the dangers of communicating with strangers** online. Predators trick their victims into believing that they have similar interests and groom children because they desire a more intimate relationship.
4. Remind children that **online "friends" are still strangers**. You can never be sure that the person you only know online is who he or she says they are.
5. **Examine the photos they post**. Details in photos could provide predators with identifiable information, such as street signs, license plates, and school or city locations.
6. **Be on the lookout for extremist language** and steer clear of these sites.

7. **Never to meet an online friend in person** without a trusted adult.
8. **Immediately report anything suspicious** to a trusted adult.

## Works Cited

"Connect with Us!" Fairfax Network\_Tricked. FCPS, 08 Dec. 2015. Web. 17 Mar. 2016.  
<<https://www.fcps.edu/node/32026>>.

i-Safe. "iParent Campaign: Introduction to Internet Safety." 19 June 2005. PowerPoint file.

"Violence Prevention and Intervention." Fairfax County Public Schools: Special Services: Student Safety and Wellness Office: Violence Prevention and Intervention. FCPS, 15 May 2015. Web. 17 Mar. 2016. <<https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness>>.