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English 3

Fire Stream

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Keeping Kids Safe

Nowadays everyone has some type of device they use to get onto social media. Whether it be Facebook ,Instagram, Youtube or Snapchat. People all over the world of many ages and cultures are on these social media sites. Due to these social media sites being easily accessible people can fake their age and say they are a certain age when they really are not. and they really shouldn't be able to just make the account to become apart of these various social media sites. There are many children who are on social media and are being exposed to many things a child should not be seeing or being involved in. Parents monitoring their children's internet use will stop kids from entering the adult world. By parents doing this, this should help kids be the kids they should be instead of being put in certain situations they won't be able to handle because they are not an adult.

There are many things a parent can do to protect their children when they are entering social media. The parents can either let their children have these social media accounts or not. If parents are going to allow their children to have these accounts they have to take certain actions to make sure their child is safe and is doing what they are supposed to be doing. When looking at an article called "What are parental controls and how can they help children stay safe online?" written by Carolyn Bunting on ParentInfo.com she explains that there are many

different tools and controls that parents can use to help this situation. The first that she talks about is what the controls do and go against. She lists many things like blocking violence and pornography, controls the information that is shared and parents can also set time limits like how long the children are allowed to be on the internet and what time of day the children will be allowed to access the internet.

Parents should be involved in their child's life when it comes to their internet use and what they are having to access. The next site that I looked at was Uknowkids.com, there was an article called "10 Reasons to Monitor Your Child's Internet Activity" written by Tim Woda. In this article, Tim Woda talks about why parents should be involved in what their children are looking at. These reasons are reasons that are said a lot of the time that everyone is aware of but never really pay that much attention to. The first point that Tim Woda mentioned was Cyberbully, cyberbully is something that happens all around the world just like all of these other topics. Cyberbully is a serious topic that sometimes doesn't get treated as a small topic until something horrible happens. The next topics talked about in the article was Sexting and Online Predators. Sexting can not just happen on social media but also just on regular text messaging on their phones. If these children are getting into things they really shouldn't be because no one is watching over them then it is very easy for this to happen. Online Predators are a huge deal and are another topic that needs to be taken seriously, this is sometimes how a lot of children go missing and into a lot of trouble. Most times these two topics are caused by the other. Another overlooked topic was the child's reputation, and what they are posting, it could be something as simple as a picture or status and the child is only 12 and has a bad reputation, that can stay with them.

One more source that I took a look at was a Youtube video of the show 20/20. On this show, there are interviews, world news and politics reported. In this specific episode, there was a 17-year-old girl named Paris Dylan(Dunn). She was in contact with a famous basketball player named Chris Anderson also known as Birdman who is 33 years old. They were talking through Facebook, email and text messages. In these messages, both Chris Anderson and Paris Dylan were sending nude photos of themselves to each other. While Paris and Chris were talking to each other she was contacted by a person named Tom Taylor who claimed he was friends with Chris and wanted them to meet each other. Chris bought her a ticket to come and see him in Denver. Paris agreed to meet up with Chris, she packed a bag and lied to her mother about where she was going. She met up with Chris and they spent the weekend together, during this weekend there were sexual activities that had happened between the two, meanwhile, Chris Anderson said he had no idea she was 17 years old. After the weekend Paris continued to get bombarded by text messages from Tom Taylor. Tom then started sending very violent messages to her, then also said that he had all of the photos she had sent to Chris. Tom Taylor had made a website with all of her nude photos on it as well as her name, phone number, and address. Any interaction that you make on the interwebs will always be there whether you know about it during the moment or not some can even lead to major consequences.

Social Media is always going to be around, it is a source for people to express themselves and connect with others. Social Media just like many other things have an inappropriate side and people who are on there for all the wrong reasons. Not only does Social Media need to get more of a grip on this before these situations occur again and again, but the parents need to be more aware and take action to better this generation of kids and further generations so this becomes a normal action.

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