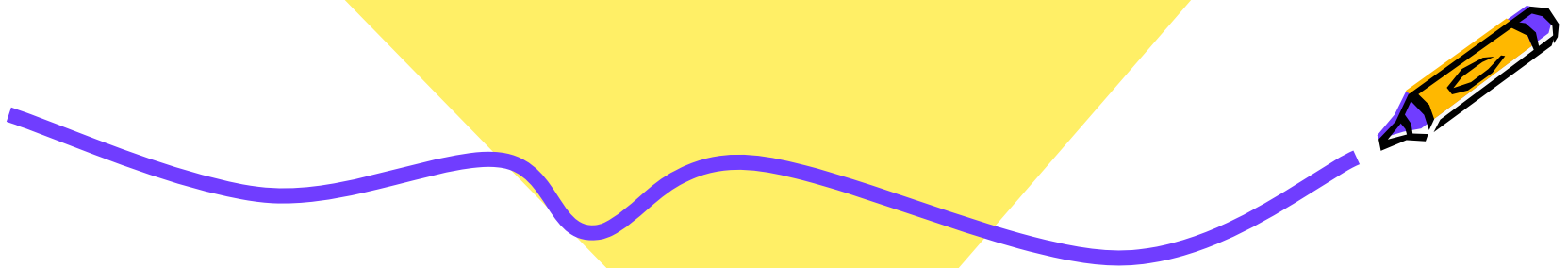
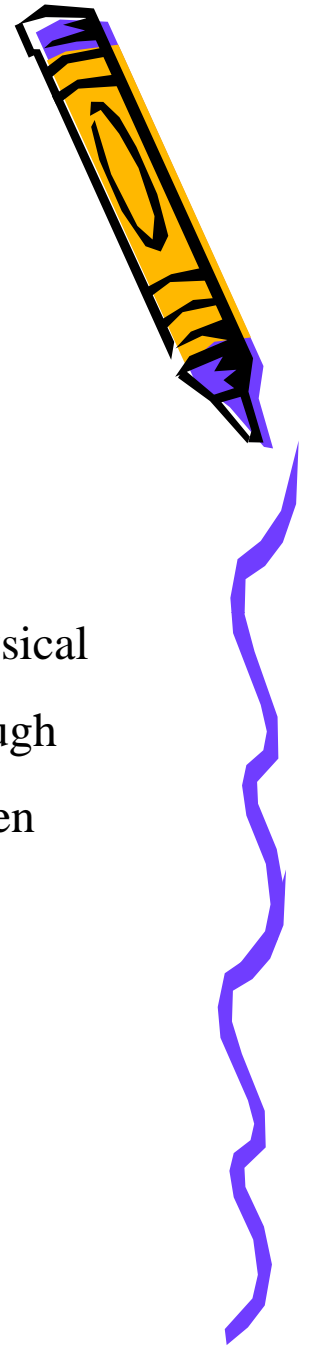


Cyberbullying



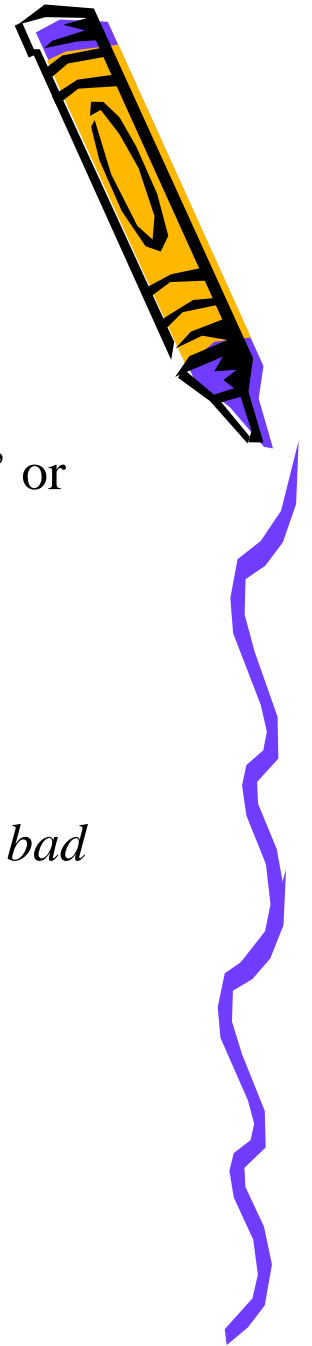
Introduction

- Bullying is an aggressive behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power or strength. Usually, it is repeated over time. Traditionally, bullying involves actions such as: hitting or punching (physical bullying), teasing or name-calling (verbal bullying), or intimidation through gestures or social exclusion. In recent years, technology has given children and youth a new means of bullying each other. The term is known as, Cyberbullying.



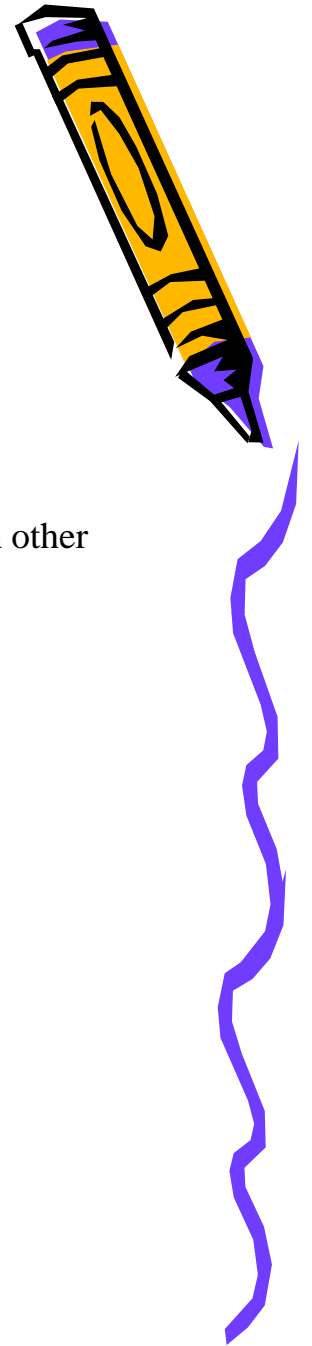
What is Cyberbullying?

- Cyberbullying, which is often referred to as ‘online social cruelty’ or ‘electronic cruelty’ can involve:
 - *-Sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images*
 - *-Posting sensitive, private information about another person*
 - *-Pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad*
 - *-Intentionally excluding someone from an online group*



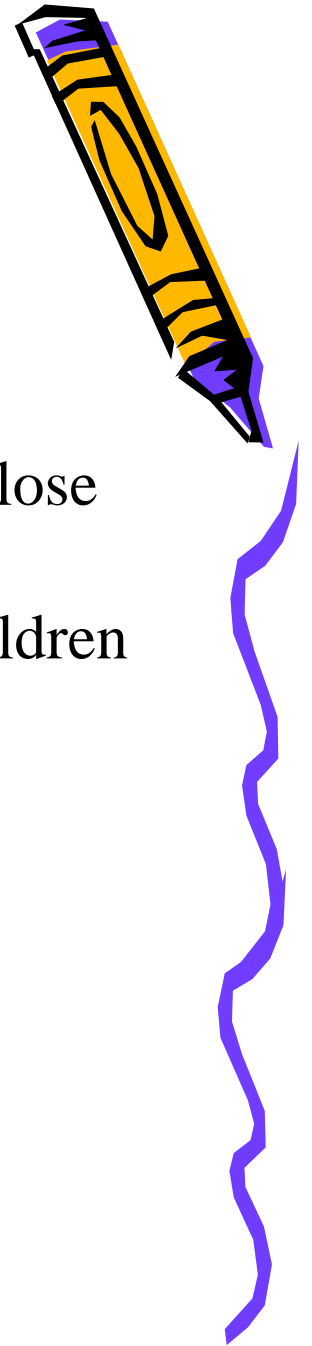
Children and Youth can Cyberbully Through:

- -Emails
- -Instant messaging - a downloaded program that allows users to communicate with other “buddies” through written text, using a unique “screen name” of their choice
- -Text or digital imaging messages sent on cell phones
- -Webpages
- -Web logs (blogs)
- -Chat rooms or discussion groups
- - Social Networks - Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.



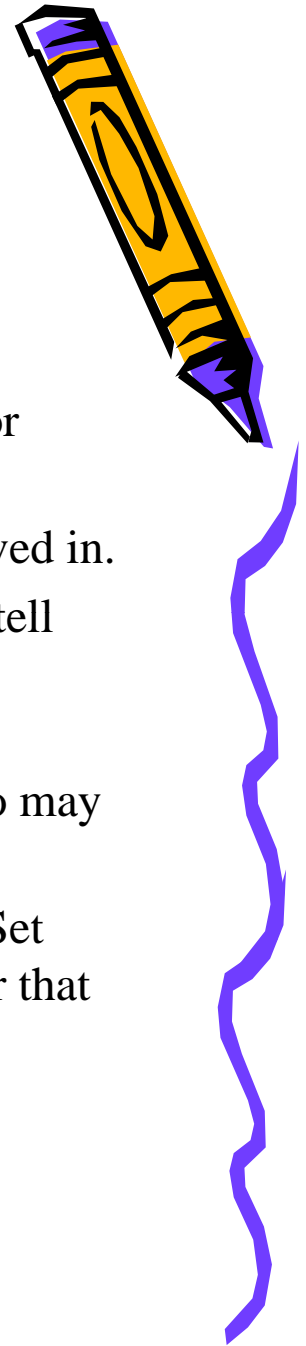
Please Note...

- It is extremely important that parents/guardians pay close attention to the cyberbullying and the activities of children and youth when using the previously mentioned technologies.



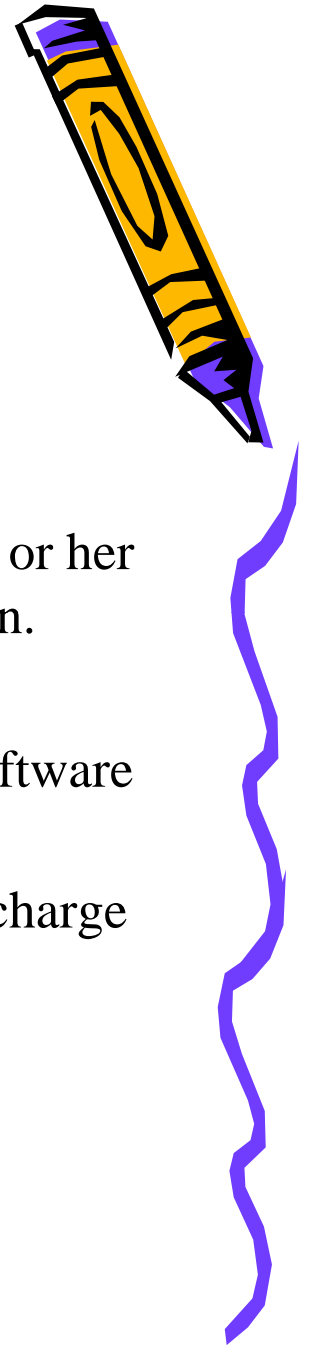
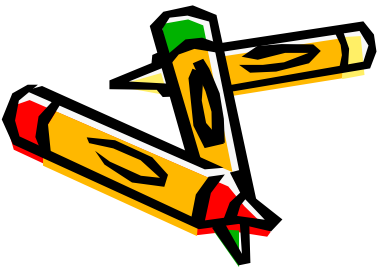
Tips to Help Prevent Cyberbullying:

- Keep your computer in easily viewed places; such as the family room or kitchen
- Talk regularly with your child about online activities he or she is involved in.
 - Talk specifically about cyberbullying and encourage your child to tell you immediately if he or she is the victim of cyberbullying, cyberstalking, or other illegal or troublesome online behavior.
 - Encourage your child to tell you if he or she is aware of others who may be the victims of such behavior
 - Explain that cyberbullying is harmful and unacceptable behavior. Set your expectations for responsible online behavior and make it clear that there will be consequences for inappropriate behavior.



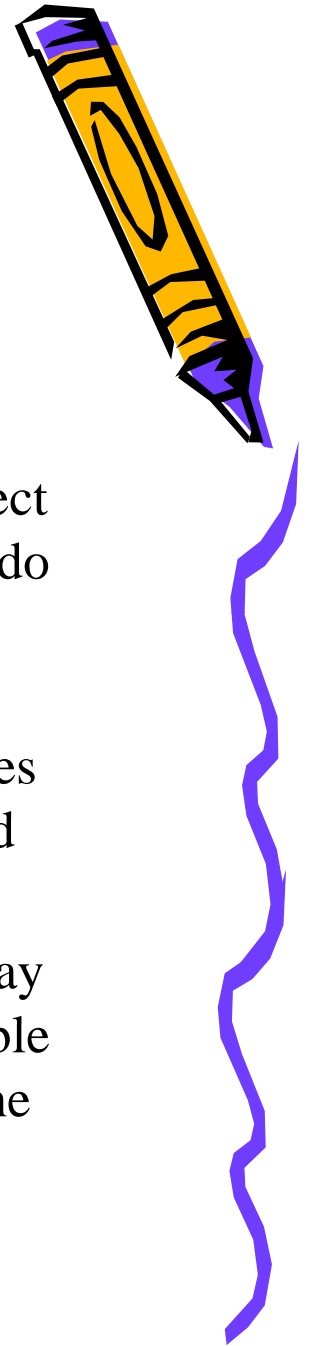
Tips Continued...

- Although adults must respect the privacy of children and youth, concerns for your child's safety may sometimes override these privacy concerns. Explain to your child that you may review his or her on-line communications if you think there is a reason for concern.
- You may want to consider installing parental control filtering software but, don't rely on these tools.
- Some wireless service providers will offer a service for a small charge that can put time restraints on your child's cellphone



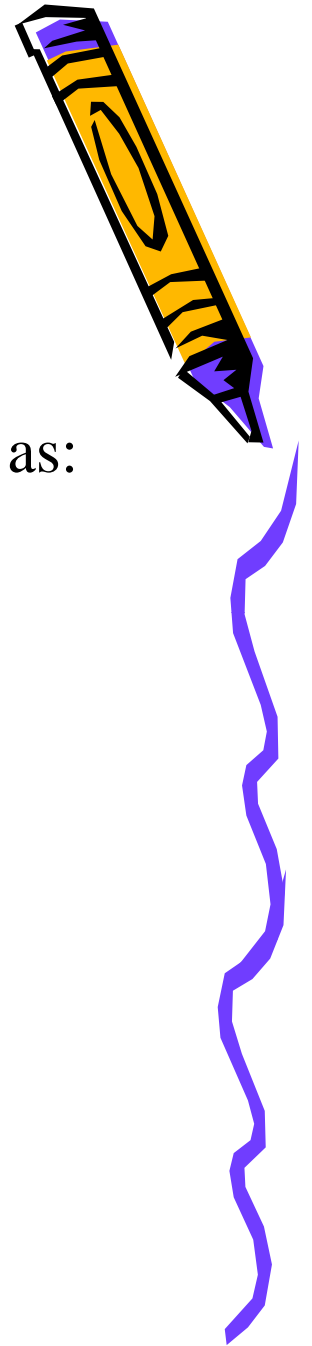
Tips to Help your Child:

- Strongly encourage your child does not respond to cyberbullying.
- Do not erase the messages or pictures. Save these as evidence.
- Try to identify the individual doing the cyberbullying. If you suspect the cyberbullying is a criminal, contact the police and ask them to do the tracking.
- Sending inappropriate language may violate the “Terms and Conditions” of e-mail services, Internet Service Providers, web sites and cell phone companies. Consider contacting these providers and file a complaint.
- If the cyberbullying is coming through e-mail or a cell phone, it may be possible to block future contact from the cyberbully (It is possible that the cyberbully may assume a different identity and continue the bullying).



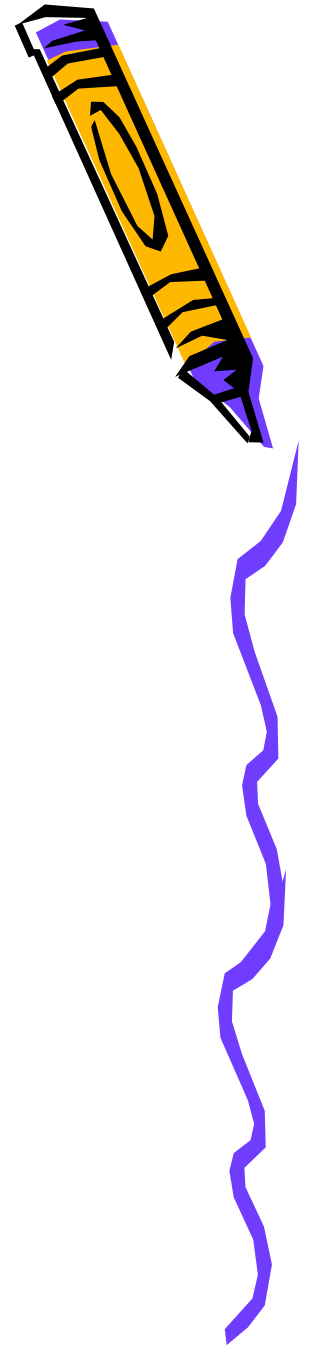
Tips Continued...

- Contact the police if cyberbullying involves acts such as:
 - Threats of violence
 - Extortion
 - Obscene or harassing phone calls or text messages
 - Harassment, stalking, or hate crimes
 - Child pornography



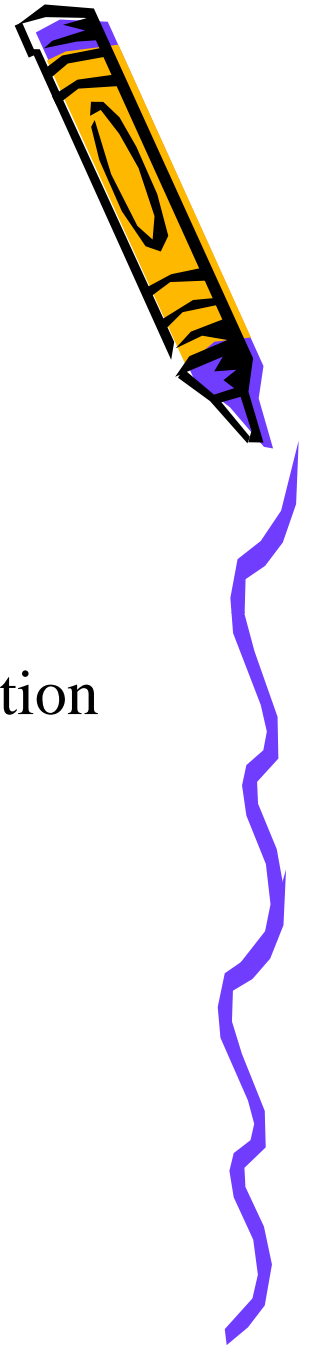
Computer Safety

- Keep password on computer
- Don't share personal information
- Manage parental controls
- Keep computer in location where it can be easily monitored
- Limit time and set guidelines
- Monitor who children interact with



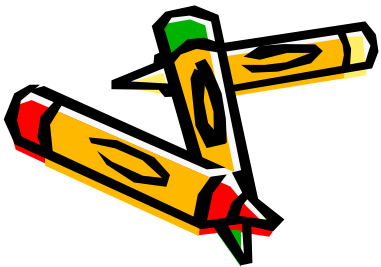
Communicate With Your Children

- Inform your children about what cyber bullying is
- Talk to them about consequences of cyber bullying
- “What’s done is done”
- Importance of not spreading private/personal information
- Maintain secrecy of passwords
- Explain safety is primary concern



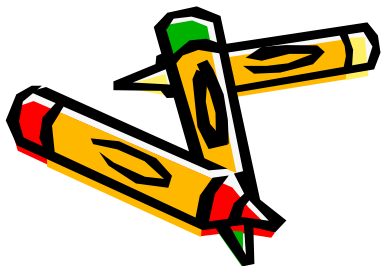
What To Look For

- Sudden or unexplained changes in behavior (mood swings, secretive behavior)
- Excessive use
- Addictive behavior towards use of technology (texting, video games)



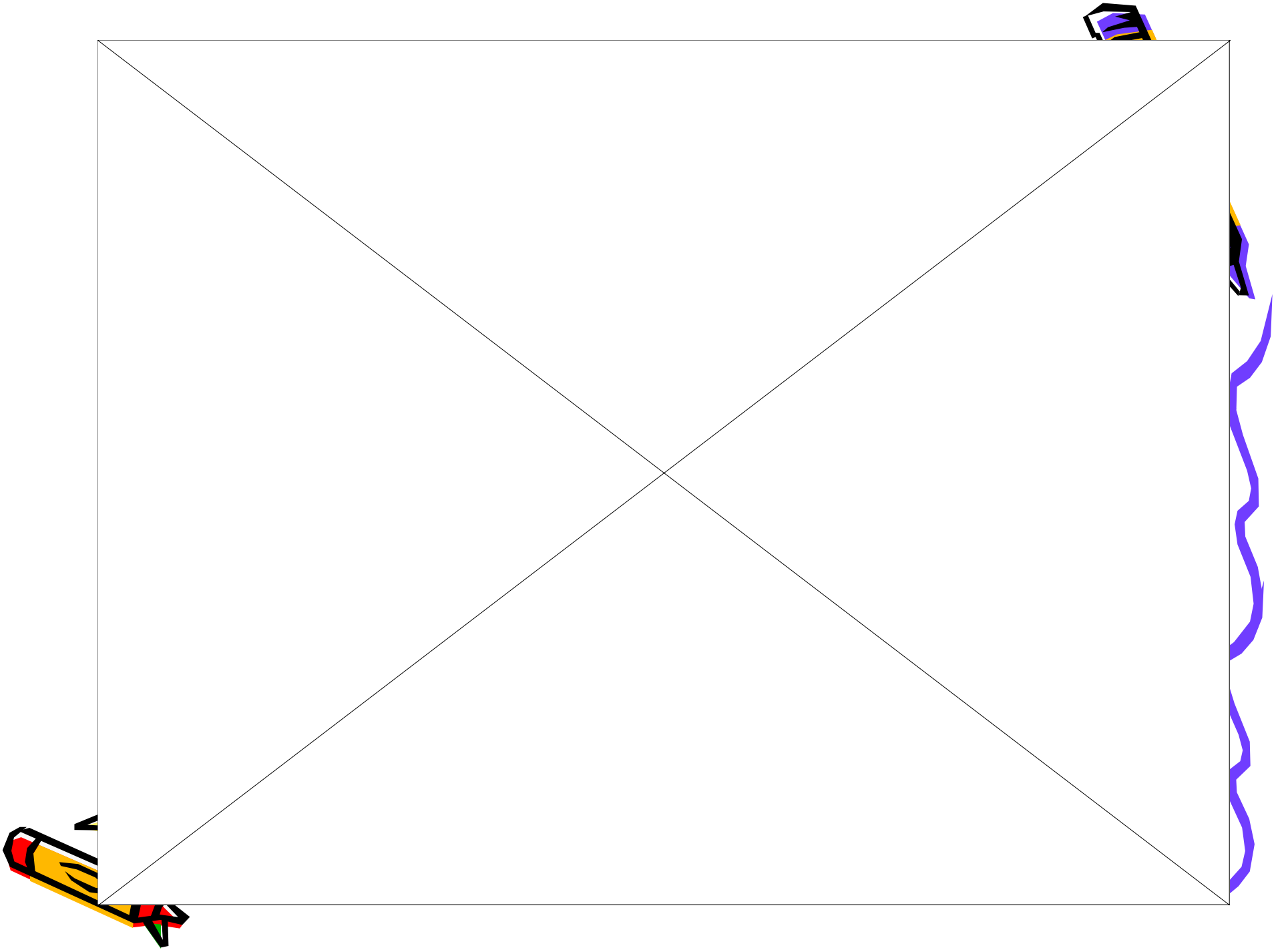
Alarming Statistics

- 87% of youth go online
- 64% of teens do things online that they would not share with their parents
- 54% prefer to be alone when surfing on the Internet
- 56% of teens have posted a profile (including name and other private information) where others can see it publicly
- 20% have arranged to meet an online friend in person in the real world
- 20% have received a sexual solicitation or approach in the last year



** Information is based on Risk Management Alert*





Resources

- www.stopcyberbullying.org
- www.wiredsafety.org
- www.cyberbully.com
- www.kamaron.org
- www.cyberbullyingprevention.com

(Free cyber bullying prevention packet)

