

# HAVE SOME CYBER-SENSE

01

Children and adults alike must understand that anything published online is public and permanent.

02

The anonymity of being online can cause individuals to be meaner and nastier than they would otherwise be in person.

03

Parents must teach children good cyber-manners.

Children must never be left alone online. Parents must have access/passwords to all online profiles.

*Operation Survival* was founded in 1988 in the hopes of stemming the inevitable tide of drugs and alcohol seeping into the community.

*Operation Survival* provides evidence-based programming in the local yeshivas and public schools, art programs, rap groups, positive alternatives, and crisis assistance to thousands of students each year.

The program also networks with other agencies to disseminate information to educators, clergy, social service and medical professionals, and community agencies.

*Operation Survival* is the first program to combat alcoholism and substance abuse in both the Jewish and African-American communities of Crown Heights, and has been credited with bringing the racially diverse community together in common cause.

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**PREVENTION 101**  
Help Save a Life.

## What can I do to prevent cyberbullying?

A project of Operation Survival

**Cyberbullying is one of the most dangerous forms of bullying for the simple reason that online we are given the luxury of anonymity and we are often our worst selves when we are anonymous.**



We are angrier and meaner, and we do and say things we would never do or say in person. It's easy to make cruel remarks to others when you don't have to do it to their faces.

**For better or worse, anything published online is public and permanent. These are two important 'p' words that today's generation does not understand. They will say "I deleted it", but it doesn't matter if we deleted something from our devices. Once it is out there in the cyber world, it exists forever in the public domain.**



Understanding this cyber environment can also be difficult for older adults who are cyber-immigrants and will thus never be as comfortable as their children in the cyber world. Even adults in their twenties are not as proficient with technology as the younger people of today.

The gap in knowledge and experience in the cyber world only grows larger. So, who is going to teach children cyber manners? Who is going to supervise their cyber presence? Who is going to help them be their best selves, whether they are face-to-face or in front of a screen? If we don't, no one else will.

**To teach them cyber-manners and how to be caring individuals in cyberspace, we have to go deep into uncharted territory. We have to supervise them, know their passwords, and have access to their online presences profiles.**

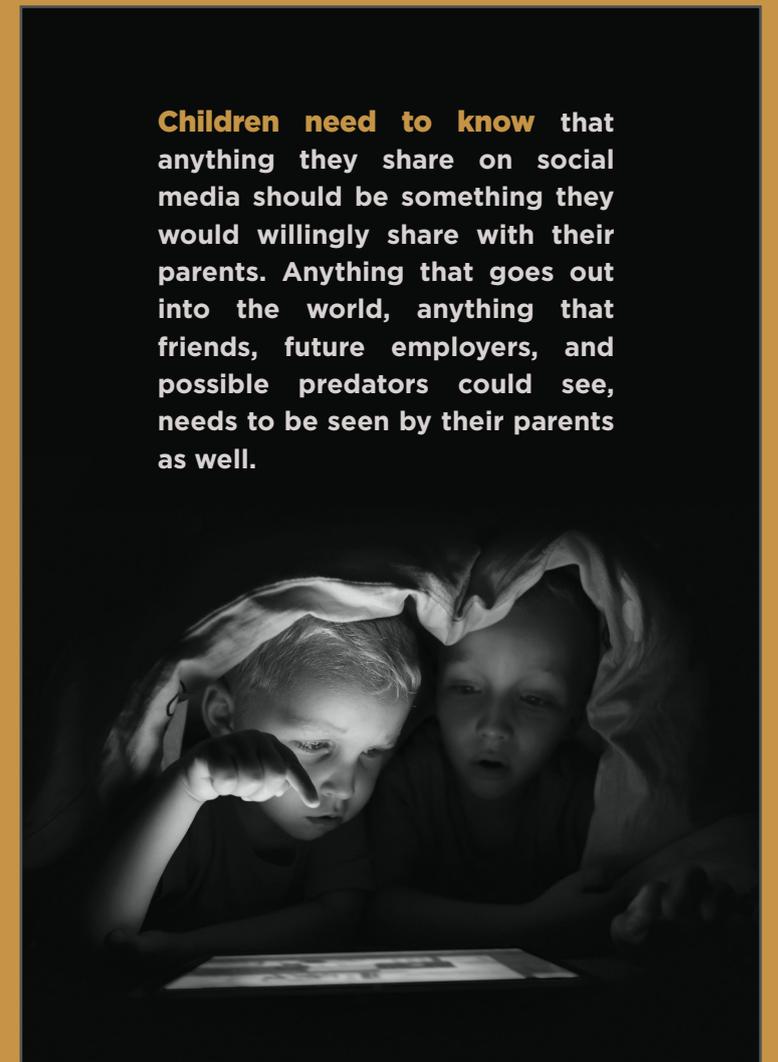


If our children push back and tell us this is an invasion of their privacy, we need to help them understand that if they want privacy they should write it in a paper diary under lock and key. We need to make sure that children understand that what they do virtually is never private; there is always someone with the ability to access it.



**IT is a huge shift for parents to get on board with the amount of supervision and education they need to provide for their children when it comes to technology, but it is dangerous to ignore the issue.**

**Children need to know that anything they share on social media should be something they would willingly share with their parents. Anything that goes out into the world, anything that friends, future employers, and possible predators could see, needs to be seen by their parents as well.**



► Based on interviews with Dr. Rona Novick, PhD, for Prevention 101 series.