SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING THE INTERNET

by:

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The world we live in could be a dangerous one, especially for the children. The internet, specifically, has evolved into a perfect platform for various online crimes and abusive activities.

Our deep-rooted problem of poverty coupled with the failure of the law enforcement agencies in the Philippines to fully protect the children under RA 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act), RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) and RA 9775 (Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009) is a come-on for international pedophiles and child pornographers to come here, abuse our children, and make money from it. UNICEF says that the Philippines is “the number one global source of child pornography.”

As teachers, we have the responsibility to closely coordinate with parents to ensure that our students are protected against these cyberbullies, online predators, pornography vendors and cybercrime offenders. Here are some tips to help us safeguard our student’s online safety.

1. Explain to the students about the nature of the virtual world and the concept of digital footprint.
2. Advise them to be cautious and discerning about what they share online.
3. Tell them never to engage in online chats with strangers.
4. Encourage them to tell us or to their parents if anything makes them uncomfortable.
5. Talk to parents on how they can better protect their children online. They should know how to spot and deal with online predators that prey particularly on children. They should monitor their children’s online activities. They should also filter the websites that their children can access and block those harmful ones.

6. Report to the proper authorities any incident that expose the students to online danger.

7. Set an ideal example for the students by being a responsible and cautious internet user yourself.

There are really so many things that the internet can do for us. In fact, in today’s generation, they can’t imagine life without having the internet. With these tips, I hope we teachers will be able to help parents to protect their children from the danger of using the internet, and to our students, for them to become aware and responsible in using the internet.

References:

Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act)

Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act)

Republic Act No.9775 (Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)


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