



Priceless[®]
Parenting

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Priceless Parenting Newsletter February 2010

Dear Parents,

Were you as shocked as I was to see the Norton Family Online 2009 search data showing the fourth most popular search term for kids of all ages, including those 7 and under, was sex or porn? It's certainly a wake-up call for parents who have computers in their homes!

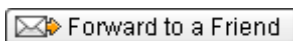
There's a lot of data coming together that's screaming for us to pay attention. The Kaiser Family Foundation just released their latest report showing the average amount of time kids 8 - 18 are spending with media is 7 ½ hours/day!

This month we'll explore some issues related to sex and porn. If you want to take my seven week online parenting class and be in conversation with myself and other parents about these topics and more, please [sign up for the class starting February 22nd!](#)

Warm Regards,

Kathy Slattengren

P.S. I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please do me a favor and forward this to a friend who also may enjoy reading it.



Children Searching for Sex and Porn - Yikes!

Norton Family Online recently released the most searched for terms by children in 2009. Across all three age groups (7 and under, 8 - 12, 13 - 18) [sex or porn was in the #4 spot for most search for terms.](#) Yikes!

This data was gathered from the 14.5 million searches done by people using their service to monitor and block certain web content. It highlights a significant issue and there is plenty of other collaborating evidence showing children are finding porn online.

Wired and Wild?

Would you like a presentation for your school or organization on this topic? Please contact me to schedule a presentation on "**Parenting the Digital Child: Teaching Responsibility in a Connected World**". We'll discuss issues around Facebook, cellphones, video games, internet access and current issues in the news.

I'll also be giving this presentation on May 10th as part of [Parent Learning Link's Marvelous Mondays](#). You can [register online](#) for this presentation.

Quick Links

[Register for Priceless Parenting Class](#)

[Parenting Presentations](#)

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Other Resources

TV Interview

Northwest Cable News anchor Shaniqua Manning [interviewed Kathy on the recent news of kids searching for sex and porn.](#)

Children Viewing Porn

Stories are being told from parents across the country about their elementary-age kids being given web site urls by their friends which turn out to be porn sites. Parents are shocked and upset when they discover what their children have seen. The children are also often distressed by the images they've seen.

I recently heard about a 12-year-old boy who is in therapy after his parents caught him getting up in the middle of the night to look at porn. Apparently he had been viewing porn since he was 8-years-old and was spending increasing amounts of time on it.

Stories like these help alert us to potentially serious problems. Being aware of these possible issues, we are in a better position to proactively plan and act rather than react to a crisis situation.

Children "Sexting"

When people take sexually revealing picture of themselves and send them as text message attachments, it's called "sexting". According to research reported at Common Sense Media, 22% of teen girls and 20% of teen boys have sent nude or semi-nude photos of themselves. They may do this to show off or prove their interest in someone.

What they often don't realize is that sending sexual images to minors is against the law. Some states have been prosecuting children for child pornography or felony obscenity.

Children also don't think through the fact that once a picture is sent, it is around forever. That picture may end up being passed around to many others with devastating results. This happened recently in the Seattle area as [reported by the Seattle PI](#), "Police say three teens were arrested after they sent a naked photo of a 14-year-old girl in a text message that went viral across Thurston County."

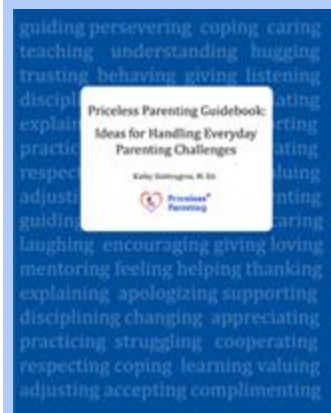
When kids make poor decisions in our digital age, the consequences can be enormous. Parents have their work cut out for them in teaching their children about sexuality and helping them learn to think before they click.

Talking About the Birds and the Bees

Clearly children are interested in knowing about sex. The ability for children to learn about sex on the internet makes it even more critical for parents to discuss sexuality with their children starting at an early age. By having these conversations, parents can discuss their values

Parenting Book

The [Priceless Parenting Guidebook: Ideas for Handling Everyday Parenting Challenges](#) provides practical advice using real parenting stories.



and increase the likelihood the kids will turn to them for questions instead of the internet.

Planned Parenthood outlines what children should know at different ages in their article [Human Sexuality - What Children Need to Know and When](#). There are also a number of [great books on sexuality](#) for different ages.

Guiding Children to Making Good Choices

We want our children making good decisions - especially when we're not around. One way we can help develop their ability to think through choices and possible consequences is to have lots of small conversations with them.

News stories are a wonderful source of real life examples which can launch these conversations. A quick way to start a discussion is to share something you've recently read. *"I just learned that 20% of teens have sent nude or semi-nude pictures of themselves to friends - wow! That really worries me since I also read a story about teens being arrested for this because it's considered distributing child pornography."*

By listening to your children's thoughts and feelings on a story like this, you'll develop a deeper understanding of your children. You'll also be in a better position to influence their thinking about these important issues.

This Month's Challenge: Discussing the Birds & Bees

This month's challenge is to have at least one conversation with your children about sexuality. [Books can be a wonderful resource](#) for starting the conversation. For older children who have access to computers, discuss some of the recent items in the news related to sexting or internet searches.

Last Month's Challenge: Focusing on the Positive

Last month you were challenged to actively watch for your children's good behavior and let them know you noticed it. Were you able to make more positive comments than negative ones to your children for at least one day last month? If so, you are on your way to beating the statistics on 18 negative comments for every one positive one!

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