Written for the Internet Keep Safe Coalition • Illustrated by J. Chad Erekson Foreword by Richard Paul Evans



iKeepSafe.org

Office of the First Lady/Gentleman or Governor Stationary

Dear Parents and Teachers,

The Internet is a powerful tool that most youth use regularly. As with any tool, we must instruct our children on how to use it safely. A recent study conducted by the University of New Hampshire showed that one in five youth using the Internet received an online sexual solicitation in a one-year period. In an alarming 15 percent of those cases, the solicitor attempted to meet the child in person. With the growing risk the Internet poses to our children, I hope this simple book will aid you as you teach your children to protect themselves from Internet predators.

If you see anything suspicious or think your child may be a victim or Internet exploitation, contact your local law enforcement agency, local FBI office, or the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678.

Thank you for your commitment to our shared priority of protecting children.

Sincerely,

First Lady/Gentleman or Governor Signature

PRAISE FOR FAUX PAW THE TECHNO CATSM

"Faux PawSM is a protection message to help your child be safe on the Internet. This clever cartoon will impress children that chat rooms are not warm, fuzzy cat rooms."

P. Brent Petersen, M.D.

Child Psychiatrist

Clinical Director for the Carmen Pingree School for Children with Autism

"In recent years, Internet safety has become a complex problem for our society and for our children. It is essential that we find methods to effectively introduce children to these safety concerns in order to facilitate a dialogue with their parents. Concepts need to be clear and non-threatening, and presented in an entertaining and developmentally appropriate manner. In my professional opinion this story of a curious cat and a furious dog, meets all of these criteria and will prove to be a valuable tool in promoting Internet safety for young children."

Keri L. Herrmann, M.D.

President, Intermountain Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Board Certified, Adult, Child, & Adolescent Psychiatry

"Childhood is a rich time of learning. A child's curiosity is boundless and the desire to emulate adults is exciting. It is clear to caretakers, however, that a child's judgment does not match the child's energy. Keeping children safe, therefore, becomes the parent's responsibility.

"This charming book focuses on the pernicious threats which can enter into anyone's home through a computer and endanger children. Faux Paw's message to children acknowledges a child's understandable vulnerability while emphasizing an awareness of Internet danger. Awareness gained by a child and vigilance maintained by parents may, hopefully, prevent tragedy in the future."

Richard C. Ferre, M.D.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist



a picture storybook by

Jacalyn Smith Leavitt

and illustrated by J. Chad Ereksen

Faux Paw the Techno CatSM: Adventures in the Internet by Jacalyn S. Leavitt

Illustrated by:
J. Chad Erekson
and the
Brigham Young University Animation Program

For information regarding special discounts for bulk purchases, please contact the Internet Keep Safe Coalition group orderinfo@iKeepSafe.org

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For my children and grandchildren and every child

FOREWORD

There is a popular fable about a wolf that had difficulty getting to the sheep because of the vigilance of the shepherd and his dogs. But one day the wolf found an old sheep's skin that had been flayed and thrown aside. The wolf pulled the sheep's pelt over his own and then approached the flock. The small lambs, thinking the wolf to be one of them, left the flock to follow the wolf. Separated from their protectors, the wolf quickly made a meal of them.

Even though the fable of the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing was written hundreds of years ago, it has never been more relevant than to the Internet age in which we live today. As parents and teachers strive to protect their 'lambs,' there are wolves out there-human predators-who hide behind false Internet identities.

Faux Paw the Techno CatSM is a wonderful tool to help parents and educators safeguard our children. Well written and beautifully conceived, my first thought on reading this book was thank heavens that this book exists. I plan to give copies not just to my children and nieces and nephews but to all the children we serve in our Christmas Box Houses.

Richard Paul Evans New York Times Bestselling Author of The Christmas Box and A Perfect Day



Hello, I'm Faux Paw the Techno Cat.



I used to live in the animal shelter, but not anymore. The governor rescued me. Now the state capitol building is my home.



I live in the governor's office where I'm an important part of the team. There's a big ball of yarn that gets really bored if I don't chase it. And when the governor's had a tough day, I sit at his feet. I can tell he feels better.



You say my name "foe-paw." In France the word *faux pas* means mistake or false step, but I'm named Faux Paw because I have an extra toe on each of my front paws. (Get it?)

Everybody makes *faux pas* sometimes, but let me tell you about a really big mistake I made.



It happened on the computer. Most people don't put cats and computers together, but I'm the Techno Cat for a good reason. I'm a computer whiz! At night, when everyone goes home, the governor lets me use his laptop. I am soooo good at games.

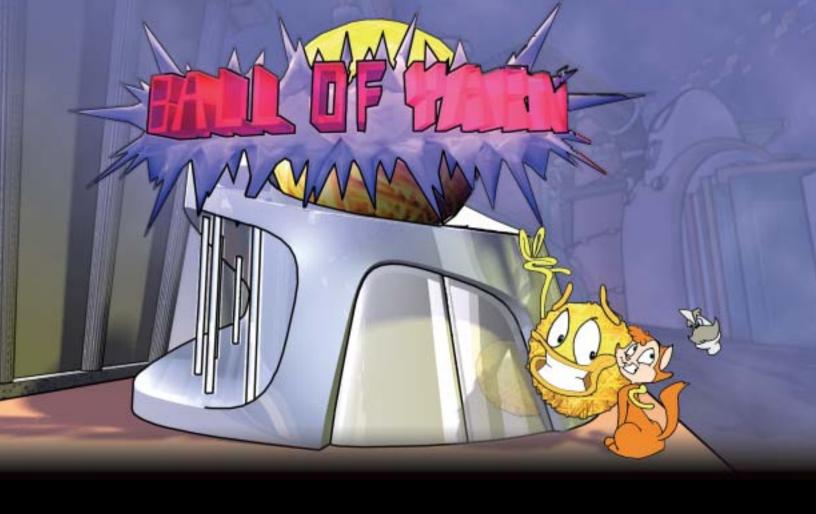


One night I was cruising around Internet City using my favorite part of the computer—the mouse! LOL (On the Internet, that means "laugh out loud." Sometimes I even make myself LOL.)

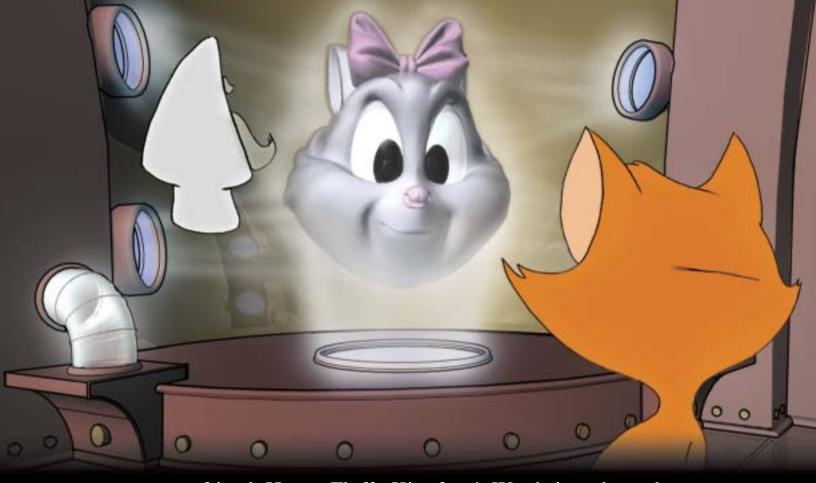


While I was mousing around, I bumped into the governor's old friend, Cursor. He and the governor work together all the time.

"Howdy, Faux Paw," he said. "Don't forget—the Internet is like a big city. Some places are safe, other places aren't, and it's important to know the difference."



But how could I listen to Cursor? Right before my eyes was the Ball-of-Yarn Chat Room—a dream come true! Flashing signs, piles of yarn, free catnip giveaways! And . . .



... a new friend: Happy Fluffy Kittyface! Words just showed up on my screen.

"Hello, Faux Paw," she typed, "I'm Happy Fluffy Kittyface. Wanna chat?"

So I typed back: "Oh, Kittyface, I haven't had anyone to talk to all day. Everyone's so busy here."



"That's okay," she typed, "I'd love to be your Internet friend. I like to purr in the sunshine and play with yarn, how about you?" "THAT'S MY FAVORITE THING IN ALL THE WORLD!" I shouted back.



"Faux Paw," she asked, "maybe we go to the same school? Do you go to Meow-Meow Elementary?"

I was about to tell her that I go to Cool Cats Elementary, but Cursor jumped in: "No, Faux Paw! Never tell anyone on the Internet the name of your school!"

"Silly Cursor," I thought, "he loves to say things like that—he's such a worrier."



Luckily, Kittyface was still there. She typed, "Faux Paw, I have a new ball of yarn—bright red—wanna see it?"
"Oh yes! I'd love to see your yarn," I typed.



"Let's play," she typed. "I'll bring my yarn, and you bring yours. Maybe we can watch a movie. Where do you live?"



Cursor was going crazy by now. "No, Faux Paw!" he said. "Never give your name, address, phone number, the name of your school, or even a picture of yourself to anyone on the Internet."

I thought, "Cursor just doesn't understand—Happy Fluffy Kittyface is my friend." So I kept typing: "Let's meet by the lamp post in front of the capitol building."



"Stop, Faux Paw! Never, *never* meet anyone you've found in a chat room!"

But I thought I knew better than silly Cursor. "Sorry, Cursor, got to go. I have a new best friend to meet," I said.

"Faux Paw! I'm worried! I'd better alert the governor!" he said as I ran out the door.



When I got to the lamp post, it was a lot darker than I thought it would be.

"Where's Happy Fluffy Kittyface?" I thought.



"I can't wait to show her my official pillow by the governor's desk and the candy machines in the basement. I wonder if her ball of yarn is bigger than mine."

"... She sure is taking her time."



Then, a voice came from behind me. It wasn't a happy, fluffy voice.



It was a low, terrible growl. "Hullo, Faux Paw, I'm Happy Fluffy . . .



"... Kittyface!"



I ran as fast as my four legs and twenty-two toes would carry me, but it wasn't fast enough!

"Where can I hide? Somebody, help! Cursor!" I screamed.



Just when I thought I was doomed, the governor's car screeched around the corner. He threw open the door and yelled, "Hurry, Faux Paw!"

I jumped straight into the arms of the governor, someone I knew I could trust.



"Wow, am I glad to see you!" I said. "Kittyface almost ate me alive." "You were lucky tonight, Faux Paw," said the governor. "You've got a good friend in Cursor."



The End

But keep going...

Howdy kids! I'm your friend, Cursor. Remember, the Internet is like a big city with great places to go, but you have to be careful. That's why we have three rules for Internet safety:

Keep. Don't Meet. Tell. SM

- 1. **Keep** your personal information protected. Never give your name, address, phone number, the name of your school, or a picture of yourself to anyone online.
- 2. **Don't meet** in person anyone you've found online.
- 3. **Tell** a parent, teacher, or trusted adult if you feel uncomfortable about anything you see on the Internet.

... So long friends.



If you want to read more about Faux Paw the Techno CatSM and Internet safety, check out the iKeepSafeSM Web site:

www.iKeepSafe.org

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Parent,

Over the years, the growth of technology has led to the full integration of the Internet into our homes. While online exploration opens a world of possibilities for children, expanding their horizons and exposing them to educational resources, there are also known dangers that are an unfortunate reality in cyberspace.

There are individuals who attempt to sexually exploit children through the use of various online services. Some of these individuals gradually seduce children through the use of attention, affection, kindness, and even gifts. They listen to and empathize with the problems of children.

They will be aware of the latest music, hobbies, and interests of children in efforts to stimulate relationships with them. These individuals attempt to gradually lower children's inhibitions by slowly introducing sexual context and content into their conversations. Some offenders collect and trade child pornography images, while others seek face-to-face meetings with children via online contacts. It is important for parents to understand that children can be indirectly victimized by sexual predators through Internet contacts.

The FBI has prepared a brochure for parents titled "A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety." This guide is available on the Internet at www.fbi.gov. The FBI encourages parents and children to use this guide and other resources to help make the Internet a safer place for our children.

Thank you for your help in our joint effort to protect children.

New Smarry Workshop





My Rules for
Online Safety >

anything makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

I will tell an adult I trust H

2. I will ask my parents or guardian

before sharing my personal

J. I won't meet in person with

anyone I first "met" online.

The NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational safety resource from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children* (NCMEC) and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) that uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children and teens how to be safer when using the Internet. coopplant the bis

WWW.CoSmonestide.org

- . A safe site for children that does not link to any outside sources
- Interactive activities that teach the dangers to watch out for online and how to avoid them
- . Fun games to reinforce the Internet safety concepts
- Rules and guidelines for safer Internet use

WWW. New Street Color

- · Specialized areas for parents, guardians, educators, law enforcement, teens, and the media
- · Internet safety pledges, tips, news, definitions, and resources
- · Activity cards to adapt the computer activities for home, school, and after-school use
- Real-life scenarios of teens who encounter dangers online and success stories from teens who avoided the dangers







Taking a Byte out of Internet Crime!*