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May 12, 2005

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A New Language

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On Wednesday we told you how online predators are having easier access to your children now that cell phones and other forms of technology make the web so accessible.

But even if you do monitor your child while on the web at home or on the go, do you really know what they are saying to each other?

There is a whole new language out there in cyber space and while it may just look like garbled letters to you, as **Volunteer TV's Stacy McCloud** reports, what your kids may be saying could be dangerous.

Most abbreviations used online are harmless, be right back, laughing out loud, got to go, but parents should be aware that there is lingo that is suppose to be kept secret.

Let's create a scenario, your child is sending an instant message. You have parental controls on your computer so you know it's an approved friend, your not worried, right?

If you saw them writing the letters IWSN you wouldn't think a thing, but do you even know what it



[White House, Capitol evacuated](#)

means?

"I don't know ... I will something," says Lisa Shephard, whose children use internet.

"IWSN, take a guess," Stacy McCloud asks.

"IWSN don't have a clue," says "Pat," another parent whose children use the internet.

"What if I told you it meant your child was telling someone they wanted to have sex, shocked," Stacy says.

"Yes!" "Pat" says with a look of amazement.

Think your kids don't use bad language around you? If you've seen "TS" (tough s**t) or "OSIF" (oh s**t I forgot), think again, that means they're doing it right before your eyes.

And then there's "P911", "POS", or "PIR," those are warnings that a parent is in the room.

We found 28 pages of abbreviations and that is from just one website. With so many, keeping up with all of them or stopping your children from using them would be very difficult.

The best advice is for parents to get involved themselves, set up your own IM (Instant Messenger) name, that makes it easier to keep up to date and most important ask questions.

If you see an abbreviation ask your child what it means or go to one of dozens of websites that spell it all out for you.

No doubt times are changing, teenagers have come a long way from the days of passing notes in class, so just remember on top of keeping a close eye, do your homework and think outside the box.

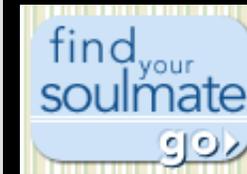
There are numerous sites online that have all the lingo your children could be using, here are a few for you to visit:

Teen Angels

<http://www.teenangels.org/articles/sms.txt>

Net Lingo

www.netlingo.com



Love is in the air

See what your sign says about your dating style!

Credit 101

Learn about credit scoring and what makes a good score.

Caring for Someone with Alzheimer's?

Get caregiving tips and treatment options.



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