



Internet Lingo: Cracking The Code

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With postings on [myspace](#) and other Internet sites leading to crime charges against kids, some parents wonder if they're clued into the latest on-line developments. If you don't know what "IWSN" means, then no.

Cops speak in code, so do doctors, and you may not know it, but your kids do too. Internet lingo, designed to KPC (Keep Parents Clueless could allow your child to write secret messages to someone on-line right in front of you. "Kids starting at a very young age have access to the Internet and are very computer literate when it comes to areas of the Internet and use of the Internet," says Erik Hopkins, PIO for East Ridge PD.

If you see your child using the following acronyms: P911, PAL, IWSN, NIFOC, ASL among others, there's cause for concern. These code words used on [myspace](#), in chat rooms, I-M, and message boards reveal the ways kids block parents from knowing what's really discussed. What do they mean? P911 = Parent Alert, PAL = Parents Are Listening, IWSN = I Want Sex Now, NIFOC = Nude In Front Of Computer, and ASL = Age/Sex/Location.

Along with reviewing your child's on-line activities, safety leaders suggest if you see something you don't understand - ask questions. Parents add teaching kids right from wrong goes a long way toward stopping suspicious on-line behavior before it starts.

What to learn more about the codes your kids could be using? The following sites: [netlingo](#) and [teen angel](#) offer chat translations for parents.