

B R A D L E Y news

New Language Leaves Us 404 - GL Trying To Break The Code

by Melissa Snyder, November 8, 2006

Do you know what POS, PIR, P911, PAW, KPC mean? If you're clueless, there is a reason why. You are supposed to be - especially if you are a parent. POS is short for "parent over shoulder," PIR means "parent in room," P911 means "parent alert," PAW is "parents are watching" and KPC stands for "keep parents clueless." These are just a few of the acronyms that are used every day during online chatting and cell phone text messaging by teenagers who are customizing the English language to express themselves.

Could this new language cause problems in schools? Some teachers say yes. Recently, a father was proofreading an essay his fourteen year-old son wrote for English class. The teen didn't realize he used "U R" for the words "you are" until his father pointed it out. For years, common mistakes have included "it's" for "its," and "your" for "you're," but some of the newer mistakes are "b4" for "before," "bcuz" for "because" and "sok" for "it's okay." Some teachers say it is a struggle in the classroom to teach kids how to spell; and instant messaging and the new internet chat-room lingo aren't helping them at all.

English teacher Pamela Groves said, "I am seeing more and more of the new language in the classroom." Groves also said that she can understand saving time with phone texting and emailing, but she said the students must separate it from the classroom. "They are getting so accustomed to speaking abbreviated words that it's becoming easier for them to write that way - and it's simply not allowed," she said. "It affects their overall grades."

Rodney Waters, who taught eighth grade for 16 years, said he doesn't see anything wrong with it as long as the user realizes it is not true writing, but instead is simply an online conversation or phone text message. "If the students could separate it, and remember that it's simply a lingo for simplicity and saving time then I don't see a problem with it, but so many are bringing it into the classroom where it doesn't belong."

As a smart parent, maybe you've blocked all the porn sites, you monitor the sites that are visited, you've set up filters and you feel like you are protecting your children from internet dangers. But you'd be shocked beyond belief if you knew what was really being talked about online by so many of today's youth.

A 12-year-old wrote "BFF" on a note to a fellow student that stood for "best friends forever." Innocent enough at one time, but could this new lingo have turned dangerous for some? Are the secret codes of numbers and letters changing internet safety? Some believe that it is.

With the internet fueled with the increase of online chatting, a whole new language has developed and acronyms and buzzwords can serve several purposes. With this new language, users can condense words and phrases and actually save time. And online, instant messages are being typed so fast that users rarely take the time to capitalize, add commas or periods.

Most adults don't think twice about abbreviating or using short hand, especially if they are putting a classified ad in a publication that charges by the word. But according to the experts, this new

language of net lingo is mainly being used by children and teenagers to keep parents out of the loop. And new slang words are being invented faster than a high-speed internet.

Could this new lingo be a gateway for predators? Law enforcement personnel want parents to be aware that this new language is used by internet predators as a way for them to invade the lives of our children.

Fourteen-year-old Tiffany said she has a computer in her room, and when her mom comes in and asks her what something on the screen means, she just says, "Oh nothing." "My mom didn't even know what it meant when the guy I was talking to typed IPN, which means "I'm posting naked," said Tiffany.

Predators often teach this lingo to their victims so parents don't find them out. This is exactly what law enforcement is trying to caution parents about.

Some ways we've researched to help protect your child: 1. Turn on the instant messenger keylogger that records every stroke. 2. Keep the computer in a central location - not in the child's bedroom. 3. www.netlingo.com is a great site to help you learn the latest codes and the new language. 4. www.noslang.com will give parents ways to translate any slang word, phrase or acronym. 5. For additional resources and tips, visit www.wiredsafety.org.

Write the Bradley News a letter and let us know WDYT. I mean, "What do you think? Visit www.netlingo.com/emailsh.cfm to decode the title of this article.

Here are just a few examples : aypi? - And Your Point Is? ayt - are you there atm - at the moment atop - at time of posting asl - age, sex, location asaik - as soon as I know asap - as soon as possible any1 - Anyone aite - Alright aiui - as I understand it aaf - as a friend