Youth Online Safety Practices

BEAR takes the online safety of your child seriously. To that end, we follow the same guidelines on our website and E-mentoring platforms that schools and libraries are subject to, set forth by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA, 2000). Visit the FCC for more information:

https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act

CIPA rules require the adoption and implementation of an Internet safety policy addressing:

- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet;
- The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors Online;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors;
- Measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

BEAR has taken the following measures to ensure consistent monitoring of our E-mentoring platforms and 1:1 interactions.

- All communications on the E-Den blog are private and for members only.
- BEAR staff manage the online registration of members to ensure proper parental/guardian/caregiver consent prior to youth sign up.
- BEAR staff will review and approve all comments made by members in the BEAR E-Den before they are posted to the blog. Inappropriate content and/or bullying will be removed at staff's discretion.
- As part of the form to submit comments to the blog, members are required to enter their name and email each time they make a comment. Therefore, BEAR staff will compare the names/emails submitted with comments to the member registration log and only approve comments when the

names/emails match the registration log. This ensures the identity of the commenting member each time they post and prevents members from entering alias names or hiding their identity.
- BEAR will post the names and/or photos of youth members who win raffle prizes, with parent/guardian/caregiver permission only (obtained via the Parental Consent Form), in a video drawing posted to the blog, in the bi-weekly Shout OUT! E-mentoring newsletter, and on the BEAR Facebook page.
- Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are encouraged to sign up as members on the blog as a method for creating greater transparency for families to monitor the online activity of their youth.

Suggestions for Families on how to keep kids safe Online

https://canadasafetycouncil.org/online-safety-rules-kids/

The Internet has brought many benefits, but it has also raised some safety concerns such as the potential for crime and predators. To make sure children have a safe and rewarding experience on the Web, parents and educators must understand where they go, what they do and the safety issues they may face.
The BEAR recommends that children who use the Internet follow these rules:

- I ask my parents' permission before giving out any personal information on the Internet, including: my sex, name, phone number, address, e-mail, school name, my parents' work address/telephone numbers, credit card information, my picture and my passwords.
- I only use chat rooms for kids that my parents have checked out for me.
- When I'm online I always use a nickname that doesn't reveal anything about me – including if I am a boy or girl.
- If an online message makes me feel uncomfortable or frightened, I don't respond to it. Instead I tell an adult right away.
- If I want to arrange a meeting with someone I've met on the Internet, I tell my parents first and make sure one of them comes with me.
- I treat people nicely when I'm online and never post or send rude messages or threats.
- I always ask permission from the author before taking words, pictures or sounds from a Web site.

- I use Web sites and search engines for kids that my parents, teacher or librarian have told me about.
- I know that things I read online aren't always true so I check the information with a parent or teacher.
- I always check with an adult before opening e-mails from strangers.