

# Advocacy Alert

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## Cyber Security

On October 20, 2005, at the Empire Plaza, the State of New York held its first annual Cyber Security Conference, *Protecting Our Children on the Internet*, the first of its kind and the first State to do so. Governor Pataki addressed the attendees via the Internet on the increasing crime perpetrated using the Internet.

Sexual predation, cyber bullying, ID theft, and gambling are some of the crimes on the increase that are affecting our children.

**To protect our children please take note of the following solutions:**

- 1) The computer should be in a common area; never in a child's bedroom**
- 2) Parents need to learn basic computer skills**
- 3) Know your child's username and password**
- 4) Set time limits for computer use**
- 5) Be aware of any changes in attitude or behavior**

A computer in a common area facilitates monitoring, as does knowing basic skills. Knowledge of the username and password also helps monitoring but is also helpful should law enforcement be needed. As with TV time, computer time should be limited; and always be aware of your child's behavior. Any change could signify a problem.

**Share this information. Help advocate for the safety of all children**