

Safety at School – Virtually (*Interview Transcripts*)

Channing Petrak, M.D., Pediatric / Child Abuse Specialist, OSF HealthCare

“In the past, we’ve always said limit that tablet time, limit that media time. And now we’re having a lot more tablet/media time, online time – which we have to because we’re doing online schooling. And that’s okay. We also just realize give ourselves a little grace because we’re busy, they’re busy. So we might want to occupy them with some media time and that’s okay. But we have to realize that while they’re online, so are people that are not really friendly or appropriate for them to be interacting with.” (:29)

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“I think the things to think about as a parent are what platform is my school using for virtual teaching and online anything. So talking to the school and just ensuring that whatever platform they’re using is secure is the first step. I mean, that’s number one as a parent. What is that platform? Is it secure?” (:18)

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“Maybe that trusted adult isn’t mom or dad because you’re a little worried about that. It might be an aunt or uncle. It might be a teacher. It might be somebody else. But tell a trusted adult.” (:09)

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“You do have that option of talking to the teacher alone without everybody else knowing. And the teacher can do the same – they can send a message to a student saying, ‘I’m a little concerned about (whatever they’re observing). Do you need to talk?’ and then maybe they can even hook them up with the school counselor if they need to. So there’s possibility there that technology allows us even though we’re not face-to-face.” (:22)