

Q&A With Vicki Courtney

What is *Logged On and Tuned Out* about?

Logged On and Tuned Out was written to parents as a reference guide of sorts. It was not written to make parents experts in technology, but rather as a crash course that focuses on the basics and highlights the pros and cons. The end goal is to equip parents to come alongside their children and guide them to use technology responsibly.

How did you get interested in this topic?

As someone who is in the trenches of teen culture (not to mention, the mom of three teens), I began to see how attached this generation is to their technology. It has changed the landscape of parenting, and most of us are frantically scrambling to catch up. I began to hear a sense of desperateness among parents over the lack of understanding. Most parents want to be engaged in their children's wired worlds but they don't have a clue where to begin. Hopefully, the book will give them the jumpstart they need.

What have you learned from your own teens regarding the influence of technology in their lives?

This is not a passing phase in their lives! Deep down, they are really craving boundaries and guidance. Once my kids realized that I was becoming involved in an effort to protect them rather than stalk them, they accepted my presence and sometimes, even my advice!

What is the greatest danger from the technology available to kids today?

Whether it's texting, IMing, MySpace, Facebook, or uploading pictures or video clips, our kids are sharing TOO MUCH INFORMATION. They will type/text things they would never in a million years say to someone's face. They are leaving a breadcrumb trail not just for predators, but school officials, future employers, and the general public at large. They have falsely perceived that their wired worlds are private or only viewable by their immediate friends. It's up to us to teach them otherwise.

If you had one piece of advice for parents, what would it be?

Get involved and don't let a fear of the unknown hold you back! There is too much at risk to tune out to their logged on lives. This is new territory and there are few rules to the game. If you don't teach your child to use technology responsibly, who will? Parents need to understand that this is not a one-time conversation. *Logged On and Tuned Out* will catch them up to speed and give them the talking points they need.

I would also add that the sooner they get involved, the better. This book is not just for parents of teens. The age our children begin engaging in technology gets younger everyday. Even if you have drawn boundaries, trust me, they are being exposed.

What are some of the most popular acronyms that teens are using online today that parents should be able to understand?

**Note: I would prefer to use this information as a “did you know” box on the page & use examples from page Chapter 2

Sounds great! I would shy away from calling them “the most popular acronyms that teens are using,” since some like “nifoc” are used more by predators but something parents should be aware of. I like the “Did you know?” header.