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Our world is increasingly technologically advanced. We enjoy Twitter, GPS, FaceTime and Candy Crush. Our phones have an app for almost everything and the world is at our fingertips. Commercials show the benefits of technology including family vacations recorded on iPhones and children Skyping with military parents overseas. However, the picture is not always pretty. The drawbacks are also there...identity theft of a woman using a bogus airport Hotspot and kids bullying each other on the internet. Advances in technology do improve our lives but the ways in which we use them can be destructive. We must be careful, well-informed, and vigilant against danger. Each new advance brings with it a new responsibility.

CR

I like to listen to the Freakanomics podcasts when I get a chance. The subtitle: "The hidden side of everything" fascinates me. In the podcast *Who Runs the Internet?* the radio hosts recount typical opinions about the evils of technology... lazy teens, internet predators, cheating spouses and the like. One focus of this particular broadcast wonders if "virtual violence" spills into real life via violent crimes. (*The research says no, by the way*). But do you know why they think that is? They suggest it's because the "lazy" teens that are spending so much time playing video games are also the same demographic that's historically been the ones committing those crimes. So the social delays that so many folks blast teens for may actually have a positive social impact. So is this positive? Negative? It's definitely interesting and worth considering what the "hidden side" of an opinion looks like.

JV

**Technologies Positive Impact on Relationships**

We see and hear about it everyday: bullying over Facebook, extra-marital affairs through instant messaging, using the anonymity of the internet to pretend to be someone else. With every new technological advancement our society faces, it also brings with it fear and anxiety about how this will affect our relationships with our family, friends, and community. Dr. Keith N. Hampton explores these issues in his article *New Communication Technologies and the Nature of Community* published in the *Family Therapy Magazine* (March/April 2013). Dr. Hampton refers to communication over the internet, texting, snap chat, etc. as information and communication technologies (ICT's). We know that ICT's influence our social relationships, but the majority of this information comes from personal stories and anecdotes, not empirical data. Dr. Hernandez discusses his research study looking at how ICT's correlate to social isolation, and the results may be surprising considering all the negatives we hear about in the news. For example, those who use social media frequently report having more confidants than those who are not active users of ICT's, those who participate in social media are more likely to volunteer in their community, and ICT's help create stronger social networks with people outside of one's immediate family.

AT

**The Secret Language of Teens on Social Media**

Do you know what all the ABC's and XYZ's that your kids use on Facebook, Twitter and text mean? Below are some common acronyms that are being used by young people today.

TW

<b>121</b> One to one	<b>IWALU</b> I will always love you	<b>PA</b> Parent alert
<b>A/S/L?</b> Age, sex, location	<b>KOC</b> Kiss on cheek	<b>PAL</b> Parents are listening
<b>CID</b> Crying in disgrace	<b>KOL</b> Kiss on lips	<b>PANB</b> Parents are nearby
<b>F2F</b> Face to face	<b>LMIRL</b> Lets meet in real life	<b>POS</b> Parents over shoulder
<b>FUD</b> Fear, uncertainty, doubt	<b>NIFOC</b> Nude in front of computer	<b>WTGP</b> Want to go private?
<b>WUF</b> Where are you from?	<b>NP</b> Nosy parents or No problem	<b>TAW</b> Teachers are watching
<b>IPN</b> I'm posting nude	<b>P911</b> My parents are coming	<b>TOS</b> Teacher over shoulder