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<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Khoo, Angeline.</td>
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GROWING UP WITH THE INTERNET:
SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS
AND THE ROLE OF PAGI

Paper presented at the 9th AMIC Conference,
29th June to 1st July 2000

by

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Abstract

This paper discusses some of the social and psychological concerns that impact on
children who are growing up on, and are being socialized by the Internet. Both
opportunities as well as dangers of the Internet are highlighted. For example, just as
the Internet can enhance relationships through emails and IRCs, it can also destroy
them through expressed hostility and aggression. There are also dangers that are not
merely virtual but are manifested in real life -- like cyberstalking and cyberpredators.
While enlightened parents do not want to deprive their children of the wonderful
world of the web, their concerns about the dark side of the Net are not unwarranted.
What can parents do to ensure that children reap the best of the Net safely? How can
children grow up to be respected and responsible "Netizens"? It is for such reasons
that PAGi was formed in November 1999. The second part of the paper highlights the
mission of PAGi and what this voluntary organization does in the interest of Internet
safety.