



Guidelines for Parents for Internet Safety

By taking responsibility for your children's online computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online.

Here are some good family rules for internet use:

- Never give out identifying information (name, address, school name, or telephone number).
- Get to know the Internet and any services your child uses.
- Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they "meet" on the Internet.
- Never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you feel uncomfortable. Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter such messages. Instruct your child not to click on any links that are contained in E-mail from persons they don't know.
- Check out blocking, filtering, and ratings applications. Be sure to make this a family activity. Consider keeping the computer in a family room rather than the child's bedroom. Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends.
- Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. Discuss these rules and post them near the computer as a reminder.

Additional Resources

Play It Cyber Safe www.playitcyberseafe.com

The goal of this website is to empower children, parents and teachers to prevent cybercrime through knowledge of the law, their rights and how to avoid misuse of the Internet.

CyberNetiquette Comix <http://disney.go.com/cybersafety/index.html>

In this series of comics, children learn about proper Internet ethics and the importance of keeping private information private. Join classic Disney characters for adventure, fun, and online awareness tips.

Internet Keep Safe Coalition www.ikeepSAFE.org

The Internet Keep Safe Coalition group teaches basic rules of Internet safety to children and parents, reaching them online and in school. Governors and/or first spouses formed this coalition in partnership with a growing list of crime prevention organizations, law-enforcement agencies, foundations and corporate sponsors. The iKeepSafe.org web site uses an animated icon/mascot named Faux Paw the Techno Cat to teach children the importance of protecting personal information and avoiding inappropriate places on the Internet.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children www.missingkids.com

This site provides information on general child safety and Internet safety for children, parents, educators, law enforcement, and the community.

SafeKids.com www.safekids.com

This site contains information for children, parents, teachers, and officials on Internet safety and Internet family resources.

SafeTeens.com www.safeteens.com

This site provides tips, advice, links, and suggestions to help make your family's online experience fun and productive.

WiredKids.org www.wiredkids.org

This site contains Internet safety information for children, parents, teachers, and officials. It provides links to child-friendly and other Internet safety sites as well as fun games and activities.