



Internet Safety

Helping Children Have a Positive Online Experience

Today's students are "Digital Natives." They are the first generation to grow up with the internet. It has become an integral part of their lives, and they've become very adept at using it. Technical expertise, however, doesn't equal maturity. Just because a child knows how to use the internet doesn't mean they are developmentally ready to use it. Parents should supervise and mentor their children online in the same way they would supervise young children at the park or monitor their teen.

What Parents Can do to Keep Their Children Safe Online

- Spend time online together and teach your children proper "netiquette."
- Stay informed of the latest trends and popular websites. Help children learn how to bookmark their favorite sites so they can find them easily.
- Review a website and its content before allowing your child to sign up.
- Talk to your children about potential dangers, and encourage them to let you know about any situation or message that makes them uncomfortable.
- Keep the computer in a common area of the house.
- Set reasonable rules and guidelines regarding when and how the computer is to be used.

Things Children Need to Know About the Internet

A child's best protection is you, their parent. Here are some things you should discuss with your children before they use the internet.

- *Information isn't always accurate.* Encourage your children to only go

to websites with a reputation for providing accurate information. Teach them how to verify the accuracy of the information they find.

- *People are not always who they say they are.* Just as they would never speak to a stranger in person encourage them to never speak to strangers online, even if they say they are a child.
- *The internet is permanent.* Anything posted to a website, a social networking profile, or sent in an email can also be copied, forwarded, or printed. Internet service providers can retrieve information even if it has been deleted. Children and teens need to be aware that what they put on the internet may be seen by colleges and potential employers, even if they've deleted it.

Useful Websites

Kids Health: http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html#

Wired Safety: www.wiredsafety.org/

NetSmartz: www.netsmartz.org

SafeKids: www.safekids.com

Protect Kids.com: www.protectkids.com

Sample Rules and Pledges:

www.netsmartz.org/resources/pledge.htm#

www.safekids.com/family-contract-for-online-safety/

www.protectkids.com/parentsafety/pledge.htm

Signs Your Child May be at Risk Online:

www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm

Successful Students Campaign Funded by:

