

Tips for Parents:

1. Talk to your kids about the Internet's dangers. Teach them that not everything they see on the Internet is true. Supervise their time online. Consider keeping the computer in a family space with the monitor facing the middle of the room.
2. Teach kids to use search engines and good search practices to minimize the chance that they will inadvertently come across inappropriate material.
3. Teach kids not to share personally identifiable information, including photographs. Teach them to beware of "instant winner" pop-ups that ask for personal information.
4. Teach kids not to open email file attachments or download unfamiliar programs/ updates/ etc.
5. Monitor IM and chat rooms. Make sure that kids NEVER call or agree to get together with someone they met online.
6. Skim the privacy policies of sites your children visit often.
8. Set limits. The Internet is both a place and a tool. Would you let your 6 year-old walk into a dark alley at midnight? Use a chainsaw unattended? The Internet is exciting and powerful, but it can be dangerous! Encourage kids to balance their time online and offline. Make Internet play time a privilege or reward available after other duties are accomplished. Set a time limit for being online.

For More Information:

For Children Grades 4-8:

Cybersmart Kids
<http://www.cybersmarkids.com.au/cybersmarkids/netiquette.html>
Rules for netiquette, online chatting and personal safety.

Kids' Rules for Online Safety
<http://www.safekids.com/kidsrules.htm>
8 important rules for personal online safety.

ALA's Great Websites for Kids
<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/greatwebsites/>
Encourage "safe searching" by using site directories created for kids.

For Children Grades 9-12:

The Core Rules of Netiquette
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>
10 rules offering no-nonsense advice.

Safeteens.com
<http://www.safekids.com/safeteens>
A reminder that the online world has to be navigated carefully.

For Parents:

Get Net Wise:
<http://www.getnetwise.org/>
Protecting Children in Cyberspace:
<http://www.protectkids.com>
Children's Online Privacy Protection Act:
<http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/privacyinitiatives/childrens.html>
FBI's Parent's Guide to Internet Safety:
<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm>
NH State Police Internet & Children Brochure:
<http://www.state.nh.us/safety/nhsp/cprinternetchildpam.pdf>

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A Parent's Guide to Child Safety on the Internet



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	Benefits	Risks	Safety Steps
Internet Research	Lots of easy-to-find information	Information may be false or out-of-date	EVALUATE RESULTS! Teach your child to use good search techniques, and to be wary of what they find.
Email	Great for keeping in touch with family or friends, encourages writing and reading skills development	Unsolicited email may include inappropriate content or destructive viruses	Teach children not to open unidentifiable emails or executable attached files. They should also know not to visit a website at the suggestion of a stranger.
Chat Rooms/ IM	Instant communication with family/ friends, a great way to interact with people from different cultures or people with similar interests	Strangers with malicious intent may prey upon unsuspecting visitors, language or content of chat might not be age-appropriate, excessive time online could limit child's development by taking the place of face-to-face interactions	Accompany children in chat rooms, teach children about stranger safety, limit children to specific rooms
Games	Enhance child's technical/ computer skills and manual dexterity, many enhance concentration and critical thinking skills	Not all games are appropriate for children. Many contain graphic language, sex, violence or involve illegal gambling.	Be aware of what games your children are playing. Limit their play to games which you have evaluated together.
Shopping	Enormously convenient	Use of insecure sights could result in credit card theft	Check for encryption by using the yellow lock icon on the task bar in MSIE, examine the "issued to" part of the security certificate