



Internet Safety

The internet is a great resource for all ages but there are dangers involved as well. Be aware of your kids' computer activities and educate them about online risks. Here are some tips to keep your kids safe.

General Safety Tips

- Never share your passwords with anyone
- Don't share photos of yourself, family, or your home with people you don't know
- Do not open emails with attachments if you don't know the sender—a computer virus could be hidden in the attachment
- Never reveal personal information, such as an address, phone number, school name, or location
- Never agree to meet an "online" friend in person
- Never respond to a threatening email or message
- Always tell a parent if a conversation is scary, confusing, or makes you uncomfortable

Parent Safety Tips

- Keep the computer in a common room in the house, not in a bedroom
- Utilize parental controls provided by your service provider and/or blocking software
- Always maintain access to your child's on-line account and randomly check his/her email; consider sharing an email address

- Spend time online together to teach your kids appropriate online behavior
- Monitor your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges
- Find out what online protection is offered by your child's school, after-school program, friend's house, or anywhere your child can use a computer without supervision
- If you receive obscene, threatening, or pornographic messages, contact your service provider and your local law enforcement agency

Warning Signs That Your Child Might be a Victim of Online Predators

- Your child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night
- You find pornography on your child's computer
- Your child receives phone calls from men you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know
- Your child turns the computer off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family
- Your child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else