

ONLINE SAFETY TIPS



1. Establish rules for Internet use

- What sites can your child visit?
- Who can they talk to?
- How long will they be online?
- > Where can they use a computer?

Keep house rules posted near the computer

2. Keep the computer in a common room (not a child's bedroom)

3. Discuss the importance of telling you or a trusted adult if something ever makes your child or teen feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused while online

4. Communicate

- Prepare yourself beforehand
- Talk and be open with your kids and teens
- Keep your cool. Be cool. Encourage them to confide in you

5. Be Informed

- Learn everything you can about the Internet
- Ask your kids to show you places they go
- Learn chatroom lingo by going to www.cybertipline.com for a list of acronyms like POS = Parent Over Shoulder
- Know what other access your child may have including text messaging

6. Consider safeguarding options

- Check out blocking, filtering, and rating applications
- Learn about filtering and monitoring software and WHEN TO USE THEM

But remember, education is a key part of prevention.

7. CyberTipline

- Report incidents to the CyberTipline by calling **1-800-843-5678** or at www.cybertipline.com

8. Know who your children talk to online

9. Check your children's E-mail addresses for appropriateness

10. Don't post your child's E-mail address in any directory

11. Always read a web site's privacy policy

- Don't "unsubscribe" to unwanted E-mail
- Don't sign up for "free" things

12. Don't forward E-mail to "everyone" in your address book

13. Talk to your children about what personal information is and why they should never give it out

14. Make sure children only exchange E-mail with people they know and let them use chat areas you supervise

15. Make sure you are aware of any other places your child may be using the Internet such as a friend's house or the library

16. Show your children how to turn off the monitor when something makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused

17. Access more tips on the "Parents & Educators" section of www.NetSmartz.org

18. Know how to

- Set parental controls
- Check history files

Tips for kids and teens

- 1. Don't give out personal information such as name, age, address, telephone number, parent/guardian's name, and school name/address**
- 2. Do not respond to mean, offensive, threatening, or unwanted E-mail or Instant Messages**
- 3. Choose a screenname that doesn't identify you as a young boy or girl**
- 4. Don't share your password with anyone (except a parent/guardian) — not even your best friend**
- 5. Remember, people online may or MAY NOT be who they say they are**