Encourage children to be careful when disclosing personal information

Many web pages targeted at children require their personal information in order to access content. It is vital to know when and where it is safe to reveal information. A simple rule is: children should not give out names, phone numbers, home or school addresses or pictures without your approval.

Supervise Chat room activity

Encourage your children to use chat rooms only with your supervision. Children should be aware that a stranger online is the same as a stranger at the front door. They shouldn't disclose personal information in chat rooms and must remember that people they chat with on the Internet are not always what they seem.

Discuss the risks associated with meeting people from the 'net'

The Internet can be a positive meeting place for children, where they can get to know other children and make new friends. But chat rooms and other forums on the Internet also carry risks. Discourage your children from meeting strangers, including children they have met on the net, without being accompanied by an adult. Meetings in public places are safer and it is best if children gain your approval first.

Teach your children

Teach your children how to block someone online and how to report if they no longer wish to talk to them.

STOP!
Report illegal or annoying uses on the internet
SafenetCY
www.CyberEthics.info
22 **67 47 47**

@ safer internet **cyberethics**

http://meero.worldvision.org

Keeping Children & Youth Safe Online
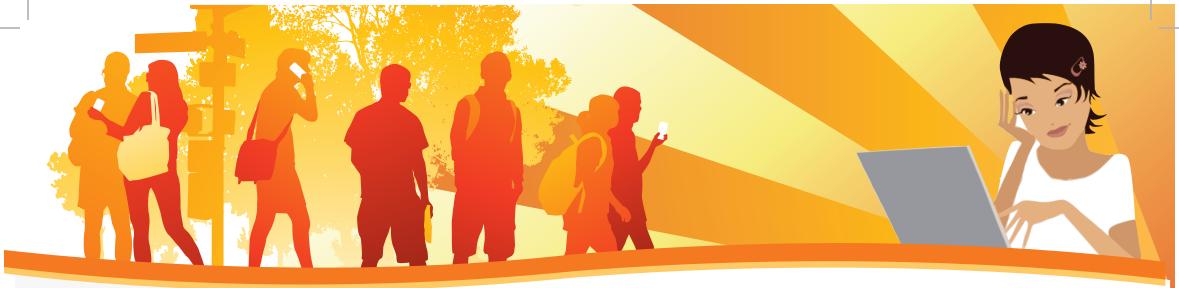
Tips for Parents

The Internet is an informative, interesting and entertaining world that also has hidden dangers. You, as a parent can help your child or teenager to get the most out of the 'net' and stay safe at the same time.

Safe Internet use, ethical mobile phone use and understanding new technology are our shared responsibility. We offer the following suggestions to help your children to safely enjoy this technology.

Use Filtering Software

Various software programs are available on the market that can be downloaded onto your computer. These filters block access to certain web pages, thus giving you extra control over the content children are exposed to.

Discover the Internet together

Take time to educate yourself on how the Internet works and what your children like to do online. Ask your children to show you their favourite websites and chat sites and what they do there in order to learn the benefits, dangers and how to protect them.

Help your child

Help your child adjust their account settings so that only approved friends can send them instant messages.

Be involved with your children and the Internet

Discuss with children the potential dangers hidden in the Internet. Talk about other people's positive and negative experiences and introduce new information to sensitise and safeguard children from unpleasant experiences.

Be vigilant with photos and the Internet

Encourage your children to only upload pictures that you as their parents would be happy to see. These pictures should not identify his or her school or your home, since this information could help someone locate them.

Remind your children that once a photo is put on the net it is lost forever. They no longer have control of who will see the photo or how it will be used.

Maintain family rules

Always keep the computer in the family room and encourage children to make their online behaviour a family activity. Placing the computer in an open public space discourages secretiveness and allows you as a parent to monitor what your child is doing online.

Report inappropriate or suspicious material to the appropriate authorities

Be vigilant and proactive on the net and report anything that you consider is inappropriate or illegal. By doing this we can help prevent illegal activities online, such as child pornography or attempts to lure children via chat, mail or messaging. You may also inform children where they can report anything that seems illegal or frightening to them.

Remember that the positive aspects of the Internet outweigh the negatives.

The Internet is an excellent educational and recreational resource for children.

Encourage children to be alert, responsible and explore the Internet to its full potential.