

Internet Safety

6 steps to improve children's Internet safety

1. Encourage your kids to share their Internet experiences with you. Enjoy the Internet along with your children.

2. Teach your kids to trust their instincts. If they feel nervous about anything online, they should turn off their monitor and tell you about it.

3. If your kids visit chat rooms, use instant messaging (IM) programs, online video games, or other activities on the Internet that require a login name to identify themselves, help them choose that name and make sure it doesn't reveal any personal information about them (age/gender/location).

4. Insist that your kids never give out

your address, phone number, or ANY other personal information, including where they go to school, where they like to play, or extra curricular activities.



5. Teach your kids that the difference between right and wrong is the same on the Internet as it is in real life. Show your kids how to respect others online. Make sure they know that rules for good behavior don't change just because

they're on a computer.

6. Insist that your kids respect the property of others online. Teach them that making illegal copies of other people's work—music, games, and other programs—is like stealing from a store.

Q. At what age should I let my children go on the Internet?

A: Children are going online at younger and younger ages—in fact, the fastest growing segment of Internet users is now pre-schoolers. Many kids use the Internet at school by the time they are six years old, so they'll probably want to go online at home around this age as well. Children under ten, however, generally don't have the critical thinking skills to be online alone, so stay involved when kids younger than ten use the Internet. Sit with them when they are online. Make sure they go to sites you

We can teach you about:

1. Internet Hoaxes
2. Email Etiquette
3. Instant Messaging
4. Online Safety For Kids
5. Online Safety For Adults
6. Phishing And Online Scams
7. Software To Monitor and Limit PC Usage
8. How To Protect Your Children From Internet Predators
9. What To Avoid/What Not To Say Online
10. Facebook And Its Privacy Settings
11. Online Pledges Between Your Children And You
12. Suggested Usage And Location Of Computer
13. And Much Much More...

Safety Tips

- Use the Internet and Real World safety pledges. They should be signed by adults and children and periodically reviewed.
- Install safeguarding programs to monitor and/or filter inappropriate material.
- Web sites for children are not permitted to request personal information without a parent's permission. Teach your children what personal information is and why you should keep it private.
- If children use chat or e-mail, teach them to never meet in real life (IRL) anyone they first "met" online—online friends may not be who they say they are!
- Talk to children about what to do if they see something that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. Teach them to turn off the monitor and emphasize that it's not their fault if they see something upsetting. Remind children to tell a trusted adult if they see something that bothers them online.

