

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE COMMUNITY

1. Make sure adults monitor access to the internet at your child's school.
2. Know your children's friends and their parents. If your child's friend has internet access at home, talk to the parents about the rules they have established. Find out if the children are monitored while they are online.
3. Make sure that your child's school has an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). This policy should include a list of acceptable and unacceptable activities or resources, information on "netiquette" (etiquette on the internet), consequences for violations, and a place for you and your child to sign. Your family can design its own AUP for the home computer.
4. If your child receives threatening emails or pornographic material, save the offensive material and contact that user's internet service provider and your local law enforcement agency.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY**

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU KNOW?

The internet has opened up a world of information for anyone with a computer and a connection. Your children will learn about computers, but just as you wouldn't send children near a busy road without some safety rules, you shouldn't send them on to the information superhighway without rules of the road. Too many dangers from pedophiles to con-artists can reach children, (and adults), through the internet.

While online, you may find inappropriate sites for children. If you do, send the web address to online services that provide parental control features or to a site advertising protection software that will review the site for inclusion or exclusion. Even if you don't subscribe to the service or own the protection software, you can help protect other children.



Cyber Safety for Kids Online

A Parent's Guide

Victim Services

Serving Elbert, Franklin, Madison, Hart & Oglethorpe

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RULES FOR ONLINE SAFETY

1. I will not give out personal information such as my addresses/telephone numbers, or the name and location of my school without my parent's permission.
2. I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
3. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
4. I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
5. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do receive one, I will tell my parents right so that they can contact the service provider
6. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without my parent's permission.
7. I will not give out my internet password to anyone (even my best friends) other than my parents.
8. I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.



Getting Started

- Explain that although a person may be alone in a room using the computer, once logged onto the internet, he or she is no longer alone. People skilled in using the Internet can find out who you are and where you are. They can even tap into information in your computer.
- Set aside time to explore the internet together. If your child has some computer experience, let him or her take lead. Visit areas of the World Wide Web that have special site for children.

Tell Your Children To...

Always let you know, immediately, if they find something scary or threatening on the internet.

Never respond to messages that have bad words or seem scary or weird.

Never enter an area that changes for services without asking you first.

Never send a picture of himself or herself to anyone without your permission.

“16 percent of teens considered meeting someone they've only talked to online and 8 percent have actually met someone they only knew online”

Controlling Access

The best tool a child has for screening material found on the internet is his or her brain. Teach children about the dangers of internet use: exploitation, pornography, hate literature, excessive violence and other issues that concern you, so that they know how to respond when they see this material.

Choose a commercial online service that offers parental control features. These features can block contact that is not clearly marked for children, chat rooms, bulletin boards, news and discussion groups, or access to the internet entirely.

Purchase blocking software and design your own safety system. Different packages can block sites by name, search for unacceptable words and block access to sites containing those words, block entire categories of material, and prevent children from giving out personal information.

Monitor your children when they are online and monitor the time that they spend online. If a child becomes uneasy or defensive when you walk into the room, or when you linger, this could be a sign that he or she is up to something unusual or even forbidden.