

How do you stay safe . . . when you surf the 'net ?

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Surfing on the internet can be fun and provide great learning opportunities. Know how the internet works. Learn what is legitimate and what to question.

- Sign an internet family contract and establish rules together. Ensure the rules extend to cell phones and internet use away from home. Sample family contracts are available on the URL sites listed on the card back.
- Encourage your kids to share their online experiences. Surf with them, while explaining what is and is not appropriate.

turn for tips on surfing

Surf Safely:

- Select a family friendly internet service provider that offers and supports parental controls and acts promptly to reports of on-line abuse.
- Customize your computer's home page with a family friendly search engine. Some search engine's provide blocks and filters for added protection.
- Be specific in your searches to reduce risk of viewing undesirable sites. Use advance searching techniques by adding "booleans" – words like "and, or and not."
- Add approved sites to "favorites". Encourage your family to use these to access web sites.
- Invest in an anti-virus program, a firewall, a Spam blocker and antispyware technology. Keep these updated to be sure they continue to do their job as new technologies evolve.
- Place computers in a high traffic room. Establish rules for web camera use.
- Teach your family that plagiarism is cheating. Pirating music, software and games is stealing.
- Remain as anonymous as possible when on the internet. Never give out your address, phone number, school name or other personal information. Limit data you give out in contests and surveys.
- Become an advocate. Report inappropriate, frightening or criminal behavior.
- Encourage your family to use several sources of information, in addition to the internet.



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