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PREVENTION OF CYBER CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

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With the spread of computers and internet, the younger generations which use the internet and other online technologies are vulnerable targets for cyber-criminals. Cyber-crimes are in the form of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, child pornography, harassment, hacking of email or social networking accounts, identity theft, unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material etc.

The following Safety Tips are issued in the interest of safeguarding the children who use internet from such cyber-crime.

Top Ten Internet Safety Tips for Children

1. I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work place address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission. I will not visit any adult site.
2. I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable. I will avoid chat rooms that discuss Sex, Cults or Violence.
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 ensure that it is in a public place and bring a parent 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 I will tell my parents right away.
6. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online and using a mobile phone. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.
7. I will not give out my passwords to anyone (even my best friends) other than my parents.
8. I will check with my parents before downloading or installing software or doing anything that could possibly hurt our computer or mobile device or jeopardize my family's privacy*
9. I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.

10. I will help my parents understand how to have fun and learn things online and teach them things about the Internet, computers and other technology.

Top Ten Internet Safety Tips for parents

1. First educate yourself, then your child.

Banning a child from certain sites may only motivate them to spend more time on them, whereas educating your child on how to keep safe will give them the tools they need to navigate their online world without being hurt; from not posting personal information to a site to understanding those people they are talking to may not actually be who they are. If the parents know the dangers themselves, this sets an example to the child to understand them as well.

2. Teach children the obvious identity rules.

Tell your children **NOT** to put photos of themselves on the Internet or to give out their names, addresses, phone numbers, schools, or other personal information online.

3. Install an Internet filter or family safety software.

Family safety software is becoming extremely advanced and an effective way to filter dangerous content. Additionally, this software usually comes with tools like time management, remote monitoring and reporting, and keystroke recognition, giving families greater peace of mind and manageability. The innocence of youth can be quickly devastated with a few clicks of a mouse on an unprotected computer and this can be easily prevented by setting up [safety software](#) first, before introducing your young ones to the online world

4. Know the dangers associated with sites your children frequent.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Whether it's MySpace, Facebook or another social networking site, by knowing what people are doing on your children's favourite sites that could put them in harm's way, parents can educate their children and show them the warning signs of potentially dangerous situations.

5. Teach children what to do if they encounter pornography on a home or public computer, such as at a school or a library.

In a similar fashion to the fire warning of "stop, drop and roll," you can teach children to quickly turn off power to the computer monitor and go to get an adult to help. This can prevent a child from attempting to stop the situation by clicking more buttons (and thereby spreading the attack and being exposed to more porn).

6. Manage your children's time on the Internet.

Scheduling times when a child can be on the Internet and the amount they can be online ensures that you know when they are on the Internet and how long. By not allowing them to have free reign reduces their chances of being exposed to inappropriate content.

7. Set specific Internet guidelines for your children to live by and consistently enforce consequences, if they are not being followed.

Giving your children specific guidelines to follow will ensure they know where they stand when it comes to how they use the Internet as well as the consequences when they breach the rules. If a parent enforces consequences consistently, their children will be more likely to follow the rules.

8. Keep computers out of children's bedrooms and in open areas.

With PCs in the open, children will be less inclined to view and access material that may not be acceptable.

9. Create a relationship with your children that are conducive to open communication.

Open communication and trust is extremely valuable. By letting children know what is expected from them and that their safety is a top priority, they will feel that if something happens --whether they are approached by a cyber stranger or bully or receive an inappropriate e-mail - they can approach a parent to resolve the issue without feeling they are in trouble.

10. Understand Internet Privacy Policies as they apply to your child.

Parents should be aware of the internet privacy policies for protecting their children's privacy on the web.

(<http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/privacyinitiatives/childrens.html>)