



INTERNET SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Watch for your child spending extended lengths of time at the computer, especially during the evening hours.
2. Put the computer in a common area of the house, such as a den or family room, but never in the child's room.
3. Read unfamiliar email that your child may receive.
4. Don't let your child have an online profile, so he/she will not be listed in directories and are less likely to be approached in children's chat rooms.
5. Tell your child to never respond to rude or offensive email, messages, or postings.
6. Never allow face-to-face meetings with computer friends, unless parentally supervised.
7. Encourage your child to report suggestive, obscene, or threatening email or bulletin board messages.

- Learn everything you can about the internet
- Ask your kids to show you places they go
- Learn chat room lingo
- Visit www.cybertipline.com for a list of acronyms

POS = parent over shoulder

- Know what other internet access your kids have including text messaging
- Who can they talk to? What sites can your child visit?
- How long will they be online?
- Where can they use a computer?

WHAT IF:

- Prepare yourself beforehand
- Talk and be open with your kids and teens
- Keep your cool
- Be cool – But be a parent not a friend
- Encourage them to confide in you
- Report the incident to law enforcement

RESOURCES:

- www.kc-crime.org
- www.missingkids.com
- www.cybertipline.org
- www.netsmartz.org
- www.isafe.org