Safe Surfing Tips for Kids

Choose a Safe and Sensible Screen Name

Choose a screen name and e-mail address that reveals nothing personal and is not suggestive.

Keep Personal Information Private

Do not share your personal information or passwords with anyone you meet online. Never post something that indicates trouble at home or with a friend such as, "I just ran away" or "I hate my parents." "I hate school" "I want to get out of here." These are the types of messages bad guys are looking for so they can quickly become a person to "help."

Keep Your Location Services Off

Make sure you always have the location services functions inside games, apps or social media turned off. A person can track you through this function.

Teach Your Parents

Show your parents the sites you visit. Teach your parents more about the Internet so you can have fun and learn together.

Find My Friends

Turn on the "find my friends" location services so that your parents can find you if you are in danger.

Watch Who Your Followers Are

Only accept "friend requests" or "follow" people you know personally.

Think About Your Personal Safety

Make your personal safety a priority. There may be people you meet online pretending to be someone they are not. Do not do anything someone you meet online asks you to, especially when you know your parents would not approve.

Do you know what your kids are saying online?

Internet predators do. Below is a partial list of acronyms that are used by young people today. Some will surprise you!

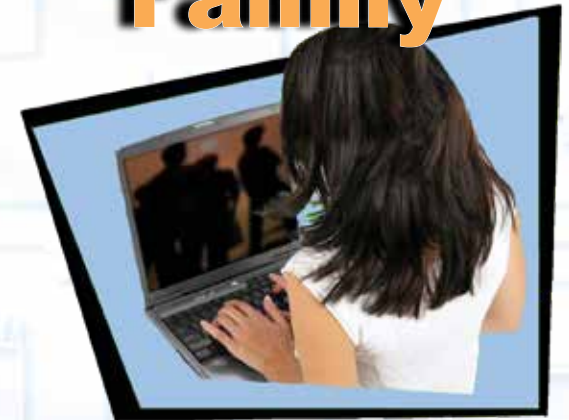|	
121	One-to-one
A/S/L	Age, sex, location
DIKU	Do I know you?
IPN	I'm posting naked
LMIRL	Let's meet in real life
NIFOC	Naked in front of computer
OLL	On-line love
P911	My parents are coming!
PANB	Parents are nearby
PM	Private Message
POS	Parent over shoulder
TAW	Teachers are watching
W/E	Whatever
WIBNI	Wouldn't it be nice if?
WTGP	Want to go private?
WFM	Works for me
WUF	Where are you from?

To learn more about Internet safety or to arrange for a free Internet safety seminar for your organization contact:

**ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY AWARENESS DIVISION
727-893-4993**

It's Up to You

Internet Safety Tips for the Whole Family

**St. Petersburg Police Department
police.stpete.org**

Safety Tips for Parents

Discuss the Dangers of the Internet with Your Children

Talk with your children about the potential hazards of the Internet, including sexual predators. Don't be afraid to talk about child trafficking.

Monitor Your Children's Followers

Many children collect followers or even pay for them to increase their popularity among peers. It is doubtful that a 14-year-old would have 1000+"friends."

Know Who Your Children Are Talking To

Periodically check your child's phone, ask them about names or phone numbers that you do not recognize.

Monitor Internet Usage

Many wireless service providers offer parental control features, filters and educational information that allow parents to manage kids' wireless Internet access, application downloads, text messages and password-protected features.

Maintain Access to Your Child's E-Mail Account

Given the anonymity of the Internet, e-mail is an easy way for predators to track down victims. Randomly check your child's e-mail and keep track of who is contacting them.

Pay Attention to What Your Kids do Online

Know what information your kids are sharing online and with whom, either through instant messaging, social networks, chat rooms or network games. Let your kids be the teacher, ask them to show you what sites they visit and who they meet.

Set Clear Rules for Internet Use

Keep Personal Information Private

Teach your children never to give out personal information online. Predators know how to use seemingly disconnected information to locate a child.

Know Your Child's Passwords

Know your child's passwords for all their devices. Make this mandatory or you will no longer continue to provide a cell phone, computer or internet privileges.

Never Allow Your Child to Meet an Internet "Friend"

An Internet "friend" may not be who they say they are. Never allow your children to meet with someone they have met online.

Establish Guidelines For Internet And Device Use

Establish guidelines for and monitor use of Internet and devices. Child sex trafficking is increasingly facilitated through technology.

Put Internet Devices in a Central Location

Internet access should be placed in a family room or other central location, **not in a bedroom**.

Require Your Child To Have Private Social Media Accounts

If your teen has a public Instagram or Snapchat account, anyone can access their pictures and send them private messages. Teens frequently add information to their bio or social media profiles that contains identifying details, such as their school, their relationship status, or the city that they live in.

Know the Internet Risks for Kids

Exposure To Adult, Racist Or Other Disturbing Material

Children are curious and adventurous, and can stumble upon inappropriate content while searching for something else. This can occur by clicking a link in an instant message or blog, and even when sharing files.

Never Allow Your Child To Meet An Internet "Friend"

Predators use the Internet to find and groom vulnerable children. Frequently their goal is to isolate a child and get them to meet in person.

Invasion Of Privacy

Some businesses capture personal information in registration or contest forms. Children might unknowingly volunteer personal information (including photos) to predators and human traffickers in blogs, personal web pages or network games.

Disable Geotagging On Your Smart Devices

Geotagging comes as a camera app feature that is available on almost all smartphones. It will add the current location where the photos are taken along with data and time stamps and embed it within the photo. This, combined with the ability to share photos online so easily, can result a huge privacy breach.

Cyber Bullying

Bullying comments and embarrassing images can easily be sent via the Internet.