



SafetyNet
www.SmartCyberChoices.org
 An Initiative Of  



RESOURCE GUIDE

SafetyNet TIPS

Communicate: Find out what your child is doing online and with whom.

Monitor and know which website your kids frequent and the apps they use.

Place computers only in high traffic areas of the home.

Have passwords to all of your children’s accounts.

Never allow kids to meet up with someone they met online without the accompaniment of a parent or adult family member.

Set family rules about sharing personal information and posting photos online.

Decide how much and what time of day your kids can spend online and the sites they can visit.

NEW! SafetyNet eLearning

SafetyNet eLearning is now available online for parents, educators and concerned adults. This guide was created for busy adults to learn what they need to do to keep kids safe online. **GO TO:** www.SmartCyberChoices.org

SOCIAL NETWORKING

It is important for parents to know how to use social networking sites. Establish your own profile so you can monitor your children. Two things to keep in mind, all settings should be on “private” and kids should not “friend” strangers.

For more information about social networking:
www.facebook.com
www.instagram.com
www.snapchat.com
www.kik.com

CYBERBULLYING

The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force recommends that kids ignore, block, delete and report cyberbullies to a parent, trusted adult or school authority.

For more information about cyberbullying:
www.stopcyberbullying.org
www.cyberbullying.us

ONLINE PREDATORS

Internet offenders manipulate young people into illegal or inappropriate behavior by “grooming” them. Grooming is done by building trust, appealing to kids’ desire to be liked and understood, take risks and by playing on their natural curiosity about sex.

For more information about online predators:
www.sdicc.org
www.cybertipline.com



KEEP CURRENT:

Educate yourself by becoming (and staying) familiar with technology and the risks associated with its use.



GAMING

Before purchasing computer games, read reviews and check the rating (computer games are rated much like movies). Many computer games are interactive and kids play with people all around the world. The best way to become familiar with a computer game is to play it with your child.

For more information about computer games:

www.esrb.org

www.common sense media.org

KEEP CHECKING

Review your child's "friends" lists and text messages. If someone is not known to the family, ask your child about them. If you don't like what you see, block text messaging and/or picture-sending capabilities, set limits on texting and block unwanted callers. Check the browser history often; if it is empty, someone may be hiding something.

USER ACCOUNTS AND PASSWORDS

Only adults in the home should be Administrators since only administrators can install new software and programs. Kids should be Users. Each person should access the computer under their own password. This allows for the use of computer controls, filters and monitoring appropriate to each user. Tell your kids to never share their passwords with anyone but you.

For more information on User Accounts:

www.microsoft.com

PARENTAL CONTROLS AND FILTERS

Software that allows you to monitor computer use and block websites for certain users is affordable and available. SafetyNet recommends ESET cyber security software.

For more information on Controls and Filters:

www.eset.com

www.internetfilterreview.com

FILE SHARING OR PEER TO PEER (P2P)

Kids download file sharing programs to "share" music and videos. Be aware this sort of "sharing" may actually be stealing copyrighted material. These peer-to-peer (P2P) services make your computer vulnerable to identity theft, malware, spyware and viruses.

For more information on Peer to Peer:

www.microsoft.com

KEEP COMMUNICATING

Talking with your kids about Internet safety is the most important thing you can do to keep your kids safe online.

For parent and caregiver controls and help, visit:

Cox Communications Take Charge!

<http://ww2.cox.com/aboutus/takecharge.cox>

PRIVACY

Sharing too much information online can be dangerous. Instruct your kids not to reveal their last name, address, phone number, school name or schedule. Set house rules about whether or not photos can be posted online and if you allow it, where they can be posted. Remember, once you post something online, anyone can see it and you no longer get to decide how it is used.

For more information on privacy:

www.netSMARTZ.org/revealingtoomuch

SEX & SEXTING

Talk about sex in age appropriate stages with your kids. The Internet is not the place for kids to learn about this important topic. Sexting is the slang term for sending sexually explicit photos, videos or text messages. Teach kids to avoid sexting. Let them know that it is dangerous to send sexually explicit photographs and it is also illegal for kids under 18.

For more information on child pornography:

www.cybertipline.com

www.meaganslaw.ca.gov

RESPECT

It is important for kids to know that respect for others applies to their cyber/Internet activities as well. Teach your children to report when they encounter something online that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remind them that it is not "telling" if someone may be getting hurt.

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