

Internet Safety Tips

- 1. Set rules of internet usage in your home.** Keeping your children safe on the web starts at home. Defining certain rules of internet usage helps provide your children with guidance on safe internet usage to keep them from harm.
- 2. Set time limits and schedules on internet usage.** Set certain times of the day that your children will be allowed to access the internet. Also set a limit on the amount of time spent using the internet at each session.
- 3. Keep the family computer in a public area of the home.** Many young people who fall into traps of internet pornography did so because they had the privacy of their bedrooms to view these pages. Keep your family computer in a public area of the home and situated such that the screen can be easily viewed when you walk by. Even though the computer is not connected to the internet, children can still get files from friends or library computers, for example, to bring home on a disk and view in the privacy of their bedrooms.
- 4. Password protect your computer.** Setup your computer such that you have to login in order to use the computer. Ensure that only you and your spouse know the login credentials. By doing so, your child will have to seek your permission to use the computer by having you log on for them.
- 5. Disallow the clearing of internet history and temporary internet files.** Most all internet web browsers keep a list of accessed sites and files to enhance the browsing experience. This also serves as an excellent tool for parents to keep track of their children's surfing habits. Do not allow your child to empty or delete entries from the history list without your permission to do so. There are occasions where clearing out your browser's history and temporary internet files may be desirable, but be sure that you are the one doing it.
- 6. Periodically browse through your child's email and chat histories.** Protecting your children from spiritual and physical harm is NOT an invasion of their privacy. Occasionally browse through your child's emails and chat histories and ask them about any questionable material you may find.
- 7. Stress to your child the danger of posting personal information to the web.** Many young people today post their names, addresses, phone numbers, chat aliases, ages, schools, churches, places of work, pictures of themselves and many other forms of personally identifiable information to public web sites. Please realize that there are pedophilic predators out there that thrive off of locating such information. A picture of a young lady in her swimsuit on the beach, her name, and where she can be located all posted on a web site is enough information for a predator to attack!
- 8. Have your child provide you with their login credentials.** Insist that your child provide you with their username and passwords to any email, chat rooms, or web sites that require a login for access.
- 9. Install filtering software.** There are many great tools out there that you can install on computers and even your home network to filter internet content. Most of this software is configurable so you can set filtering thresholds and keywords. There is even software that has the ability to email you copies of every email your child sends and receives as well as records of any chats that they were involved in.
- 10. Keep up with technology.** It is imperative that you research the technology that your child is utilizing. In doing so you will be far more informed of the good and dangerous aspects of your child's internet usage.