

Safe Surfing Tips for Kids

- Chose a safe and sensible screen Name
 - Chose a screen name and e-mail address that reveals nothing personal about you and is not suggestive.
- Keep personal information private
 - Do not share your personal information or that of your parents with anyone you meet online. Keep your passwords private except from your parents.
- Teach your parents
 - Show your parents the sites you visit. Teach your parents more about the internet so you can learn and have fun together.
- Understand your parents
 - Understand that your parents will supervise your time on line and use of software to monitor or limit where you go on line. They are doing this because they want to protect you.
- Think about your personal safety
 - Make your personal safety your top priority.

REPORT THEFTS IMMEDIATELY!

If someone stalks, threatens, or continually harasses your kids or attempts to lure them into face-to-face meetings for illicit purposes (all of which are illegal) report it to:

- The Indio Police Department at (760) 391-4057
- If there is immediate danger, call 911
- The Cyber Tipline at (800) 843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com hosted by the National Center for Missing and exploited Children.

For more information on how to protect your family online, visit any of these helpful sites:

- www.staysafe.org
- www.microsoft.com/athome/security
- www.missingkids.com
- www.bgca.org
- www.icctraining.org

This brochure was developed by the Indio Police Department's C.H.I.P. program
(Citizens Helping Indio Police)



**PROTECT YOUR
FAMILY ON THE
INTERNET**



**“Our Community
Our Commitment”**

Indio Police Department

46-800 Jackson St.
Indio, CA 92201
Phone: 760-391-4057
Fax: 760-391-4036
www.indiopd.org

Safe Surfing 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, inappropriate content and invasion of privacy.
- Become computer literate
 - Resources like software and classes can help you become computer literate. Know where your child has been online.
- Learn Internet lingo
 - IM (instant messaging) has given birth to a slew of acronyms to describe phrases. For example POS (parent over shoulder).
- Use parental controls and blocking software
 - Most software and internet providers offer safety settings that block inappropriate sites.
- 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 on line
 - Know what information your kids are sharing on line and with whom, Let your kids be the teacher. Ask them to show you what sites they visit.

Set Clear Rules for Internet Use

- Keep personal information private
 - Teach your children never to give out personal information online without your permission. Predators know how to use seemingly disconnected information to locate a child.
- Help your child pick a screen name
 - Find a screen name and e-mail address that reveals nothing personal and is not suggestive. Predators look for expressions of vulnerability, sadness, loneliness and anger.
- 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 someone they have met on line.
- Restrict internet access
 - Allow children to use the internet only when you are home. Young children do not belong in chat rooms. Teens should use only moderate chats.
- Put internet devices in a central location
 - Internet access should be placed in a family room or other central location, not a bedroom.
- Do not open attachments or links from strangers
 - Opening attachments, sharing music and clicking on links in messages from strangers could lead to getting a virus or downloading bad software or a disturbing image.
- Teach your children to report to you when feeling threatened.
 - Teach your children to trust their instincts. If your kids feel threatened or scared on the internet, ask them to tell you immediately without fear of getting into trouble or losing computer privileges.

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.
- Meeting with predators online
 - 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 other criminals in blogs, personal web pages or network games.
- Careless use of file-sharing (or peer to peer) programs
 - Exchanging music, videos and other files with strangers is risky. It can lead to accidentally downloading pornography, viruses or spyware.
- Cyberbullying
 - Bullying comments and embarrassing images can easily be sent via internet.