

## Web Site Resources

**Department of Attorney General**  
<http://www.michigan.gov/ag/>

**SafeKids.Com**  
<http://www.safekids.com/>

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
<http://www.fbi.gov/>

**Michigan State Police**  
<http://www.michigan.gov/msp>

**Missing Kids**  
<http://www.missingkids.org>

**Federal Trade Commission**  
<http://www.ftc.gov>

**NetSmartz Website**  
[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

**CyberSmart!**  
[www.cybersmart.org](http://www.cybersmart.org)

**Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA)**  
<http://www.ftc.gov/ogc/coppa1.htm>  
The main goal of COPPA is to protect the privacy of children using the Internet.



Access websites listed above

## Glossary of Terms

**Chat** - A feature offered by many online services or web sites that allows participants to "chat" by typing messages which are displayed almost instantly on the screens of other participants who are using the chat room.

**Chat room** - The name given to a place or page in a web site or online service where people can "chat" with each other by typing messages which are displayed almost instantly on the screens of others who are in the "chat room."

**Download** - To transfer (copy) files from one computer to another. "Download" can also mean viewing a web site, or material on a web server, with a web browser.

**Filtering software** - Software that screens information on the Internet and classifies its content. Some filtering software allows the user to block access to certain kinds of content.

**IM or Instant Message** - A type of communications service that enables you to create a private chat room with another individual.

**Internet** - A global connection of computer networks, also referred to as the "Net," which share a common addressing scheme.

**Newsgroups** - Discussion groups on the Internet. Newsgroups are classified by subject matter and do not necessarily deal with journalism or "news."

**Screen name** - A nickname used when communicating via chat, instant message, or discussion groups/newsgroups.

**Search engine** - A tool that enables users to locate information on the World Wide Web. Search engines use keywords entered by users to find web sites that contain the information sought.

**Surf** - To search for information on the web in a random way.

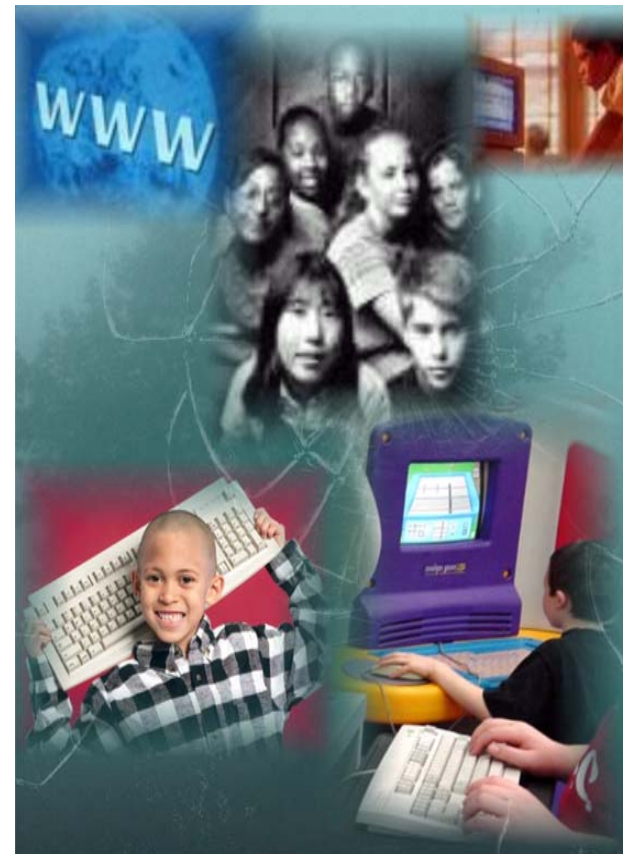
**URL (Uniform Resource Locator)** - The World Wide Web address of a site on the Internet.

**Web site** - A site (location) on the World Wide Web. Each web site contains a home page, which is the first document users see when they enter the site.

**World Wide Web** - One service of the Internet that distributes graphics and hyperlinked information.

# Child Safety on the Internet

A Parent Guide



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# Internet Safety



It is important for parents and educators to know that the wonderful new technologies associated with the Internet can also introduce new dangers for children. Accessing the Internet creates a link with millions of people and is like posting information in any public place. Unfortunately there are people who use the Internet for selfish purposes or to do illegal and malicious things. It is important to approach this new technology with safety in mind.

**P**arents - There is no “one size fits all” answer for keeping kids and teens safe online, but your involvement as a parent is critical.

- Discuss online usage and safety concerns with your children.
- Visit suggested web sites listed in this brochure for more information.
- Become familiar with the Internet and use it with your children.
- Enjoy the resources the Internet has to offer by searching wisely and safely.

## Tips for Parents



1. As your child grows, he or she will go more places and do more things independently. The Internet is another one of those places. It is reasonable for you to know where your child is going on the Internet and who he or she is hanging out with on the Internet.
2. Keep the computer your child uses in a high traffic place in your home; a place where you can easily guide your child as he or she uses the Internet.
3. Set clear rules and reasonable guidelines for Internet use. Make sure everyone in the family knows the rules. Keep them posted near the computer.
4. Remind your child not to share personal information or digital pictures of themselves online without your permission.

5. Emphasize your availability when your child is online. Let your child know that you always want to know if something online makes him or her uncomfortable. Also, encourage your child to let you know if he or she is concerned about anything a friend is doing online.

6. Keep a log of the web sites to which you and your child have given personal information. The log should include the site name, the address, the date you gave the information, and the user name and password you used for that web site.

7. Remember the saying “everything you read is not true.” Anyone can develop a web site and may include incorrect information on their site. Be very careful about trusting the information you read online—make sure it is from a reliable source.

8. People may pretend to be different than they really are in the anonymous online world. If you decide to arrange a meeting with someone you or your child has had contact with online, take every precaution.

9. Don't open e-mails, files, or web pages sent to you from people you do not know. Often, viruses are transmitted through these attachments and may damage your computer files if opened.

10. If you become worried that your child or another child is in danger, don't hesitate to contact the authorities, such as your local police department.

11. Encourage your child to show you what he or she knows how to do online, whether it's surfing sites, downloading music files, entering chat rooms, instant messaging friends, or developing a web site. Share what you know with your child and learn new things together.

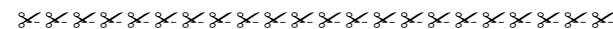
**80% of 9-17 year-old children with home Internet access use the Internet once a month or more for schoolwork.**

Source: Grunwald Associates



## Safe Searching

- Ask Jeeves Kids - [www.ajkids.com](http://www.ajkids.com)
- KidsClick! - [www.kidsclick.org](http://www.kidsclick.org)
- Searchopolis - [www.searchopolis.com](http://www.searchopolis.com)
- Yahooligans - [www.yahooligans.com](http://www.yahooligans.com)



Clip and Post Near Computer

## Child's Pledge

1. I will talk with my parents/guardians and we will decide upon the time of day, length of time, and the appropriate areas for me to visit on the Internet.
2. I will not give out personal information on the Internet.
3. I will not send a picture of myself to someone on the Internet without first asking permission from my parents/guardians.
4. I will not meet someone face to face from the Internet without first asking permission from my parents/guardians.
5. I will not respond to any messages that are suggestive, obscene, threatening or that make me feel uncomfortable.
6. I will never give my password to anyone.



## Child Signature

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**Stay Safe Online**