

INTERNET SAFETY FOR KIDS



Computers and internet expose children to a whole new wonderful world. Their education, social life, friends and networking capabilities are endless with the incredible amount of information available to them. However, there are dangers when exploring the information highway. There are numerous faceless criminals who lurk behind their computers looking for targets. They may be slow and quiet or flamboyant and loud but all look to exploit innocent victims. Don't let your children become victims. Take steps to protect your family.

RULES FOR PARENTS:

- * Create and post clear, simple, easy to read rules on or near the monitor.
- * Use safeguarding programs with monitoring or filtering capabilities.
- * Child oriented web sites may not request personal information without a parent's permission.
- * Explain to children what personal information is and why they should not give it out.
- * Teach children that online "friends" are strangers and meeting them requires your supervision.
- * Keep the computer in the family room or open area of your home.
- * Have children show you their favorite sites and what they can do online.
- * Talk with children about what makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
- * Report suspected online "stalking" or sexual exploitation to law enforcement.
- * Always read a site's privacy policy before giving personal information.
- * Verify a secure connection before giving credit card information.

RULES FOR KIDS:

- * Only use the Internet when your parents say it's OK.
- * Use good manners and be polite when emailing and chatting.
- * Always tell your parents about the people you meet or talk to on the Internet.
- * Never give out personal information like: address, telephone number or school name.
- * If you get a strange, mean or upsetting email—Don't answer it! Tell a parent or teacher.
- * Never meet internet "friends" without your parents.
- * Talk with your parents about sites you visit.
- * Don't send anyone pictures of you or your family.

For emergencies, call 911

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Education is key to prevention

The internet can be a dangerous place — protect your children.

Know your child's internet "friends"

Sterling Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
815 632-6640
crimeprevention@sterling-il.gov
www.ci.sterling.il.us/main/departments/police

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