i-SAFE America i-Parenting Tips

Worldwide, an estimated 605.6 million individuals—9.5% of the entire population—went online in 2002. Not all of them are nice people.

i-SAFE America has created this list of Internet safety tips (Please copy and distribute) to help your family recognize online danger and take the appropriate steps to protect yourselves.

• *Keep the computer in an open area*
A responsible adult should always accompany minors while they access the Internet to provide support and direction should they be confronted with an aggressive solicitation or inappropriate materials.

• *Beware of all requests for your personal information online*
Criminals copy logos perfectly to trick you. Legitimate companies never send unsolicited requests for personal information. Never give out personal information unless you initiate the correspondence.

• *Respect your child's privacy*
Respect your child's privacy but make certain they know personally everyone on their e-mail "buddy" list. Work to generate parent and child trust that supports open and honest Internet use.

• *Delete unsolicited attachments*
Viruses, worms, and Trojan horses are activated by opening an infected e-mail attachment. "Spoof" viruses make e-mail look like someone you know sent the message. Use updated anti-virus software, install a firewall, and regularly monitor your computer.

• *Know intellectual property and copyright regulations*
Using file-sharing programs for downloading music can open up your computer to identity thieves by giving access to your personal information. Downloading music and movies without paying for it is illegal.

• *Be a part of your child's online experience*
It can be a fun journey to explore the wonders of the Internet as a family. As computer-savvy as kids and teens are today they will certainly teach you a thing or two!

• *Get involved with i-SAFE America*
These are only some of the measures you can take to ensure your child has a safe and enjoyable Internet experience. This tip sheet is only a small part of the i-Parent Campaign. Go to the Outreach & Parents section at www.isafe.org for more information on how you can bring the message of Internet safety to your community.

Remember the 4 Rs

RECOGNIZE techniques used by online predators to deceive, groom, or intimidate their victims.

REFUSE requests for personal information or a face-to-face meeting.

RESPOND assertively by exiting the program, logging off, or turning off the computer.

REPORT any suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you or your child feel uncomfortable.

i-SAFE America Eluding Internet Predators Tip Sheet

According to a survey by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, only 1 in 4 youth who received a sexual solicitation online reported the incident to an adult.

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• Keep Usernames and profiles generic and anonymous

Discuss your child's online screen name(s), profile(s), and activities. Many provide too much personal information. Ensure all screen names and profiles are non-specific and purposely vague.

• Avoid posting personal photos

Pictures can be altered to embarrass or humiliate. They also provide personal information that can help an Internet predator to pretend to know you, your children, and/or their friends.

• Always keep private information private

With just three pieces of personal information, specialized Internet search engines can be used to locate someone anywhere. Internet conversations should never include any personal information.

• Keep the computer in an open area

A responsible adult should always accompany minors while they access the Internet to provide support and direction should they be confronted with an aggressive solicitation or inappropriate materials.

• Respect children's privacy

Respect your child's privacy but make certain they know personally everyone on their e-mail "buddy" list.   Work to generate parent-child trust that supports open and honest Internet use.

• Be part of your child's online experience

It can be a fun journey to explore the wonders of the Internet as a family. As computer-savvy as kids and teens are today they will certainly teach you a thing or two!

• Get involved with i-SAFE America

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Remember the 4 Rs

RECOGNIZE techniques used by online predators to groom and deceive their victims.

REFUSE all requests for personal information, to keep the relationship secret, or to meet anywhere.

RESPOND assertively by exit the program, logging off, or turning off the computer.

REPORT suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you or your child feel uncomfortable.

i-SAFE America Cyber Bullying Awareness Tip Sheet

Boys are as likely as girls to be targeted for threats or efforts to humiliate them on the Internet. Gender does not affect a child's online risk profile.

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• Don't open/read messages from cyber bullies
Your child can't be intimidated by messages from cyber bullies they never open. Teach your child to curb his or her curiosity to read and respond to a message if they suspect or know a cyber bully has sent.

• Encourage your child to tell an adult
For some children, their reaction to being bullied is not only fright, but also confusion about how to react appropriately. Coach your child to tell a trusted adult if they are ever being bullied.

• Report cyber bullying
Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can often block a cyber bully, and schools have specific procedures and rules to handle bullying. Save the bully's message and screen name, then contact and report it.

• No chatting while angry
Sending angry, hostile or taunting messages attracts cyber bullies. Make certain your child is not using e-mail messages or chat rooms to vent their own anger in a way that hurts others.

• If you are threatened with harm, tell the police
Even if you don't know how to identify the individual who has made the threat, law enforcement often has access to the information and may be able to track down and arrest them before they do more harm.

• Be part of your child's online experience
It can be a fun journey to explore the wonders of the Internet as a family. As computer-savvy as kids and teens are today, they may even teach you a thing or two!

•Get involved with i-SAFE America
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Remember the 4 Rs

RECOGNIZE "flaming" and cyber bullying techniques and the bully's screen name or address.

REFUSE to open or read any message from a cyber bully.

RESPOND assertively by leaving the chat room without responding or the letter unopened.

REPORT cyber bullying to the ISP, the school, or law enforcement as needed to stop it immediately.

i-SAFE America Protecting Intellectual Property Tip Sheet——

Copying and sharing licensed materials without permission is a violation of federal law.
Parents are being held financially responsible for their children's illegal downloads.

i-SAFE America has created this list of Internet safety tips (Please copy and distribute) to help your family recognize what are and what aren't protected materials and how to avoid violating the law.

• Don't copy or download commercial computer software
With the exception of shareware, "borrowing" a CD from someone and downloading computer programs or games onto your computer for your own use constitutes theft even if you return the CD.

• Be careful when using "sharing" software
By using software programs such as KaZaa, iMesh, and Gnutella, users can unknowingly be allowing others to share files illegally—as well as your personal files—with everyone on the Internet.

• Always cite the information source
Copying written materials from the Internet without citing the sources is plagiarism. Students should avoid the temptation to submit research papers purchased on the Internet as their own.

• Get permission before downloading copyrighted materials
Books, magazines, videos, computer games, and music require the permission of the author, publisher or artist to copy or download and use, even for your own personal use. Free doesn't mean legal.

• Become a part of your child's online experience
It can be a fun journey to explore the wonders of the Internet as a family. As computer-savvy as kids and teens are today, they may even teach you a thing or two!

• Learn about the Internet
The more you know about how the Internet works, the better prepared you are to teach your children about intellectual property rights and how not to violate them.

• Get involved with i-SAFE America
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Remember the 4 Rs

RECOGNIZE what is copywritten, licensed or protected intellectual property.

REFUSE to download or copy video, music, or software given to you for free.

RESPOND assertively by only using intellectual property which is purchased legitimately.

REPORT any incidents of people trying to sell illegal and/or pirated intellectual materials.

i-SAFE America Identity Theft Protection Tip Sheet

According to the Federal Trade Commission, there were nearly 10 million identify theft victims in 2003. It's the fastest growing crime in the U.S.

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• Monitor your credit report regularly
Obtain your credit report at least once a year by phoning either Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union and look carefully for any unusual or fraudulent activity. Their contact information is on the Internet.

• Beware of all requests for your personal information online
Criminals copy logos perfectly to trick you. Legitimate companies never send unsolicited requests for personal information. Never give out personal information unless you initiate the correspondence.

• Shred documents before putting them in the trash
Bank statements, credit card offers, utility bills, and documents with Social Security or account numbers can be retrieved by ID thieves from your trash, so make a habit of tearing them up before tossing them.

• Install a locking mailbox or use the post office
Criminals often obtain the information they need by intercepting mail in unlocked street mailboxes. Only send and recieve bills, checks, or other personal correspondence from a secure location.

• Notify law enforcement of "dumpster diving"
Identify thieves rummage through all sorts of garbage looking for unshredded documents that contain personal information.

• Place a fraud alert on your credit
If you have lost your wallet, purse, Social Security card, or passport, or suspect you are a potential victim of ID theft, contact each of the three credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union) for assistance.

• Get involved with i-SAFE America
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Remember the 4 Rs

RECOGNIZE techniques used by identity thieves to obtain people's personal information.

REFUSE to provide personal information by phone or e-mail if you didn't initiate the communication.

RESPOND assertively by contacting the three U.S. credit bureaus and put a fraud alert on your credit.

REPORT any unusual, suspicious, or fraudulent activities to law enforcement authorities.