



Protecting Children Online

A Handbook for Parents



Companion Guide to
State of Internet Security: Protecting Children Online
Full report available at www.webroot.com

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Online Kids Need Online Parents

The Internet can be a scary place – but it doesn't have to be if you take the steps to educate and empower yourself and your children.

Children are exposed to real risks when they go online. Parents' commitment to understanding their children's online activities and setting age-appropriate rules, along with the use of software to help monitor and enforce the rules, provide the best combination to protect kids online.

Did you know?

According to a recent study:

- Almost 60 percent of children three and older are using the Internet.
- Forty-three percent of teens who use social networking sites reported having been contacted online by complete strangers.
- Thirty-seven percent of children ages 11 to 17 reported they had received a sexually explicit email or pop-up advertisement within the past year.
- In homes where children under 18 use the Internet, there was a 28 percent greater incidence of spyware infections.

Tips to Stay Safe Online

Tips to keep kids safe online are available in abundance on the Internet. Here is a summary of some best practices:

1. Open a dialogue. Talk to your child about Internet safety. Surf the web together.
2. Be informed. Know what websites your child visits and with whom they are communicating.
3. Become Internet savvy – ask your child to teach you how to use programs they use.
4. If you or your children encounter inappropriate contact, report it immediately to law enforcement. Help your child understand what inappropriate contact means to you.
5. Empower yourself. Use filtering or monitoring software.
6. Explain to a child that he/she must never give out personal information such as email address, phone numbers, name, birth date, home address, family details, photos, etc.
7. Teach children not to open unknown or suspicious files. Help your child understand what suspicious files look like.
8. Be vigilant. Stay involved – your child’s online activity will increase and become more complex as they get older and the Internet evolves. Keep the conversation going.
9. Keep the computer in a public place in the home.
10. Talk to other parents about online safety. Form a network of other concerned parents.

Pledges and Agreements

An open and honest dialogue about online activities goes a long way in keeping kids safe. To help kids stay on track, here is a sample pledge kids can take to reinforce their commitment.

- ✓ My parents and I will decide together when and for how long I am allowed on the Internet.
- ✓ I will not give out personal information (last name, address, telephone number, parents' names, school, etc.) to anyone I meet online.
- ✓ I will not meet anyone in person that I met online without my parents' permission.
- ✓ If anyone online says or does anything that makes me uncomfortable or upsets me, I will tell my parents.
- ✓ I will not buy anything online without first getting permission.
- ✓ I will ask permission before downloading games, movies, music or programs.
- ✓ I give my parents permission to see what I do on the Internet. If they ask for my password, I will give it to them.
- ✓ If my parents have installed monitoring software, I will not disable it nor tamper with it.

Instant Messenger (IM) Glossary

Wondering what all those strange acronyms and abbreviations stand for? Use this Glossary to stay “in the know” with IM lingo.

Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
121	one to one	BWO	black, white, other
143	I love you	CB	chat brat
86	over	CU	see you
AAF	as a friend	CUNS	see you in school
AAS	alive and smiling	CUOL	see you online
AATK	always at the keyboard	CYO	see you online
A/S/L?	age, sex, location	CYT	see you tomorrow
A/S/L/M/H?	age, sex, location, music, hobbies	DEGT	don't even go there
AYATMTB	and you are telling me this because	DETI	don't even think about it
BCNU	I'll be seeing you	DHYB	don't hold your breath
BEG	big evil grin	DIKU	do I know you?
BF	boyfriend	DYFM	dude, you fascinate me
BFF	best friends forever	EG	evil grin

Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
EMA	what is your e-mail address	IRL	in real life
F2F	face-to-face	IWALU	I will always love you
FMTYEWTK	far more than you ever wanted to know	IUKWIM	if you know what I mean
FOAF	friend of a friend	IUKWIMAITYD	if you know what I mean, and I think you do
FTBOMH	from the bottom of my heart	JK	just kidding
FUD	fear, uncertainty and doubt	JT	just teasing
GAL	get a life	JTLYK	just to let you know
GF	girlfriend	JW	just wondering
GGOH	got to get out of here	KFY	kiss for you
H&K	hugs and kisses	KIT	keep in touch
HB	hurry back	KOC	kiss on the cheek
IDK	I don't know	KOL	kiss on the lips
ILU	I love you	LDR	long distance relationship
IMO	in my opinion	LMIRL	let's meet in real life
IMHO	in my honest opinion	LSV	language, sex, violence
IPN	I'm posting naked	LULAB	love you like a brother

Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
LULAS	love you like a sister	NUFF	enough said
LUWAMH	love you with all my heart	NW	no way!
LY	love you	P2P	peer-to-peer
LYL	love you lots	ORLY	oh really?
M/F	male or female	P911	my parents are coming!
MA	mature audience	PA	parent alert
MORPG	multi-player online role-playing game	PAL	parents are listening
MOOS	member of the opposite sex	PANB	parents are nearby
MOSS	member of the same sex	PDA	public display of affection
MUSM	miss you so much	Peeps	people
NAZ	name, address, zip	PIR	parent in the room
N-E-1 ER	anyone here?	PM	private message
NIMBY	not in my back yard	POS	parent over my shoulder
NOYB	none of your business	RT	real time
NP	no problem or nosy parents	RLF	real life friend
NT	no thanks	RPG	role-playing game

Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
RUMORF	are you male or female?	TOY	thinking of you
RUUP4IT	are you up for it?	TTYS	talk to you soon
SPST	same place, same time	WIBNI	wouldn't it be nice if
STR8	straight	WTGP	want to go private?
SWAK	sealed with a kiss	WUF	where are you from?
SYL	see you later	WYCM	will you call me?
SYS	see you soon	WYRN	what's your real name?
TAW	teachers are watching	XOXO	hugs and kisses
TIAIL	I think I am in love	YDKM	you don't know me
TIC	tongue-in-cheek	YL	young lady
TM	trust me	YM	young man
TMI	too much information	YOYO	you're on your own
TOPCA	'til our paths cross again	YTTT	you telling the truth?

Term	Definition
Attachment	A file that has been added to an e-mail. It could be something like a photograph or a clip of your favorite song. It could be something harmful to your computer, like a virus. Remind children to never open an attachment or e-mail from someone they don't know.
Blog (short for Web log)	A web log is usually defined as a personal or noncommercial web site that uses a dated log format (usually with the most recent at the top of the page) and contains links to other web sites along with commentary about those sites. A web log is updated frequently and sometimes groups links by specific subjects, such as politics, news, pop culture, or computers.
Chat room	An interactive forum where you can talk in real-time. The chat room is the place or location online where the chat is taking place. Many chat rooms are established so that people can discuss a common interest like music or movies.
Cookie	A small file that is downloaded by some web sites to store a packet of information on your browser. These packets include information such as login or registration identification, user preferences, and online "shopping-cart" information.
Domain Name	A name given to the numerical or Internet Protocol (IP) address of a web site. For example, webroot.com is the domain name for Webroot Software, Inc.
Emoticons	Animated faces that express different emotions you can send in e-mails, chat, and Instant Messaging. Emoticons are a way to show someone online how you are feeling.

Term	Definition
File-Sharing Programs	Programs that allow many different users to access the same file at the same time. These programs are usually used to illegally download music and software.
Filter	Software designed to restrict content viewed via a web browser.
Firewall	A system that creates a special “wall” used by network servers to separate their Intranet from the Internet. It keeps out unwanted information like spam and viruses and unwanted people like hackers.
Hyperlink (also called link)	An image or a portion of text that, when clicked, allows electronic connections. These connections access other Internet materials such as images, sounds, animations, videos, or other web pages.
Malware	Short for malicious software and is typically used as a catch-all term to refer to any software designed to cause damage to a computer.
Network	A network is created when computers are connected, allowing people to share information. The Internet is an example of a large network.
Parental Controls	Software that allows a parent to monitor or limit what a child can see or do on a computer.

Term	Definition
Pharming	An online scam that attacks the browser's address bar. Users type in what they think is a valid web-site address and are unknowingly redirected to an illegitimate site that steals their personal information.
Phishing	An online scam that uses e-mail to "fish" for users' private information by imitating legitimate companies. People are lured into sharing user names, passwords, account information or credit-card numbers.
Piracy	Illegally copying copyrighted software, music, or movies.
Post	To leave a message on a newsgroup or bulletin board.
Search Engine	A program that searches information on the world wide web by looking for specific keywords and returns a list of information found on that topic. Google.com is an example of a search engine.
Server	A special software package that connects to a network and provides data. The computer that this software runs on is also often called the server.
Software	Programs that help your computer work. For example a filter is a type of software that can keep unwanted Internet content off of your computer.
Spyware	Any application that makes potentially unwanted changes to your computer while collecting information about your computer activities. This information may then be sent to a third party for malicious purposes, without your knowledge or consent.

Term	Definition
Streaming (Media)	The exchange of video clips, sound, or other types of media over the Internet. It is a way for the user to quickly download these files.
TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol)	The protocols or conventions that computers use to communicate over the Internet.
URL (Uniform Resource Locator)	The specific location or address of material on the Internet.
Virus	A computer program that can destroy files or make your computer “crash.” Viruses can be sent via e-mail or through other file-sharing programs.
Warez	Pirated or illegally distributed software.
Webmaster	The person responsible for administering a web site.
Whitelisting	A form of filtering that only allows connections to a pre-approved list of sites that are considered useful and appropriate for children.
Zip File	Large files that have been compressed to make them easier to send over the Internet. The receiver must download the file with a program that will unzip it, breaking it up into the individual files that were compressed together in order to view the files.

Site	URL
Canada Safety Council	http://www.safety-council.org/info/child/webrules.html
Childnet International	http://www.childnet-int.org
Cyber Angels	http://www.cyberangels.org
Enough is Enough	http://www.enough.org
Getnetwise	http://www.getnetwise.org
Ikeepsafe	http://www.ikeepsafe.org
Insafe	http://www.saferinternet.org
Isafe	http://www.isafe.org
Komando Kids	http://www.komando.com/kids
Media Awareness Network	http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/parents/internet/index.cfm
NCMEC	http://www.ncmec.org
Netsmartz	http://www.netsmartz.org
Netsmartz411	http://www.netsmartz411.org
Onguard Online	http://www.onguardonline.com
Think U Know	http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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