Internet Safety

Springfield Middle School

Tips for Parents

- Keep the computer in a high-traffic area of your home and not in the child's room.

- Establish limits for which online sites children may visit and for how long.

- Remember that Internet technology can be mobile, so make sure to monitor cell phones, gaming devices, and laptops.

- Know who is connecting with your children online and set rules for social networking, instant messaging, e-mailing, online gaming, and using webcams.

- Assure your child that you know you can count on them to use the Internet responsibly.

- Stay involved in your child's school.

- Don't assume your child knows everything about the Internet.

Resources:

www.netsmartz.org   www.cybertipline.com
www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide

Communicate

Become a part of your child's online experience.

Teach your child the responsible use of online resources.

Talk to your child about online dangers. Let them know you are there to help them get out of a bad situation.

Talk to other parents about your experiences. It will help everyone.

Let your child know responsible adults do not pursue relationships with minors

Explain to your child that he/she should never give out personally identifiable information online.

Tell your child to never share passwords with anyone.

Explain the consequences of posting inappropriate material online.

Ask your child about bullying and talk to your child about why it is NOT ok to bully others.

PROTECTING YOUR KIDS
ONLINE

TAKE CHARGE

Set some ground rules.

Establish basic guidelines like when your kids can go online, what sites they can visit, and how many texts they can send a month, so everyone is on the same page.

Research before you buy.

Did you know that handheld games can connect to the Internet or that many laptops have built-in webcams? Understand what technology you're bringing into your home.

Don't just sit there–REPORT!

If your kids are dealing with cyberbullies or potential predators, report them to the website, cell phone service, law enforcement, or www.cybertipline.com.

MONITOR

Supervise Internet use.

If you can see what your kids are doing, they're less likely to get in trouble.

Safeguards ≠ Safe Kids.

Installing CIA-level monitoring software on your kids' computers does not guarantee they'll be safe online. Technology can't replace your time and attention as a parent or guardian.

Don't go overboard.

It's smart to keep an eye on your kids' social networking profiles, but it's never cool when you post embarrassing messages or pictures to their page.

COMMUNICATE

Talk to your kids; they're not as mysterious as you think.

Your kids might not tell you everything, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't ask. Get involved so you're not the last to know.

Challenge them to a duel.

If you have kids who like to play video or computer games, ask if you can play, too. When you respect their interests, they're more likely to respect your rules.

Don't pull the plug.

Taking away your kids' Internet access because they've done something wrong doesn't solve the problem. Talk to them about protecting themselves and respecting others online.

NetSmartz Workshop
A PROGRAM OF THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

This resource brought to you by

Walmart

For more resources visit NetSmartz.org

NetSmartz.org/TipSheets