

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

- ✓ keep the computer in the family room or another open area of your home.
- ✓ Clear, simple, easy-to-read house rules should be posted on or near the monitor.
- ✓ Look into safeguarding programs or options your online service provider might offer.
- ✓ Always read a web site's privacy policy before giving any personal information. Also make sure that a web site offers a secure connection before giving credit-card information.
- ✓ Web sites for children are not permitted to request personal information without a parent's permission. Talk to children about what personal information is and why you should never give it to people online.
- ✓ Remind children about the dangers of face to face meeting with people they "met" online.
- ✓ Talk to children about not responding to offensive or dangerous e-mail, chat, or other

If you suspect online "stalking" or sexual exploitation of a child, report it to your local law-enforcement agency. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has a system for identifying online predators and child pornographers and contributing to law-enforcement investigations. It's called the **CyberTipline**[®].



communications. Report any such communication to local law enforcement. Do not delete the offensive or dangerous e-mail; turn off the monitor, and contact local law enforcement.

- ✓ Let children show you what they can do online, and visit their favorite sites.
- ✓ Have children use child-friendly search engines when completing homework.
- ✓ know who children are exchanging e-mail with, and only let them use chat areas when you can supervise.
- ✓ Be aware of any other computers your child may be using.
- ✓ Talk to children about what to do if they see something that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
- ✓ Consider using filtering or monitoring software for your computer. Filtering products that use whitelisting, which only allows a child access to a preapproved list of sites, are recommended for children in this age group.