



Internet Safety

Often parents find the internet to be a great resource for children to find information for school reports, shopping, and possibly even a social life right in their own homes, safely under the parent's protection. However, if children are not monitored well, allowing them to be on the internet can be similar to handing them a first class ticket to a foreign country without a chaperone.

There are real life stories, nightmares rather, of children and teenagers who have been thrown into the internet dramas of "cyberbullying," journeys far from home, and online romances with people significantly older. To find out more details about these stories visit <http://www.netsmartz.org/resources/reallife.htm>.

Netsmartz.org is an internet site created by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It is a site created to teach children, teenagers, parents and educators how to safely prepare children and students for internet use. Online risks, definitions pertaining to the internet, statistics, news, announcements, and presentations are placed on this site in order for parents to understand the educational value as well as how to safely allow children's use of the internet.

Other sites to visit include:

<http://www1.myspace.com/misc/safetyTips.html>

<http://www.wiredsafety.org>

<http://www.csn.org/>

<http://www.safeteens.com>

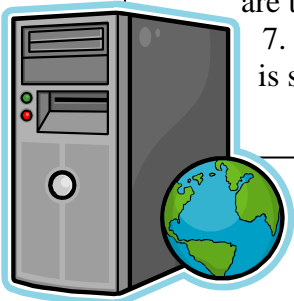
TEXT LANGUAGE:

AFAIK- as far as I know
AFK- away from keyboard
A/S/L? - age/sex/location?
B4N- bye for now
BBIAB- be back in a bit
BBL- be back later
BF- boy friend
BRB- be right back
BTDT- been there, done that
CRBT- crying real big tears
CUL8ER- see you later
DIKU- do I know you?
DTRT- do the right thing
DWB- don't write back
F2F- face to face
GAL- get a life
H&K - hug and kiss
HTH- hope this helps
JIC- just in case
LOL-laugh out loud
PAW- parent watching
POS- parent over
shoulder



SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS:

1. Limit time on the computer (set a curfew)
2. Keep the computer for use out in the open
3. Have children's login and password information
4. Remember NASA- Name- Age-School-Address (never give out this info.)
5. Set up a computer monitoring system, blocking certain sites and have security set up on the personal computer. <http://www.software4parents.com>
6. Talk to children about the dangers of internet use and be aware of who children are talking to and what they are talking about.
7. Remember that what is placed on the internet is public information even if it is selected to be private. Schools, scholarships, job interests, and others can use the internet and internet sites to find out information about anyone.



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