



# Parents: ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

**PARENTS:** Add Online Safety to the List

- Talk with your children about the benefits and risks of Internet and wireless phone use.
- Ask your children what they do online, what games they play, and what websites they visit. Make sure they aren't playing violent video games.
- Go online with your children. Have them show you what they do online.
- Make a list of any websites you find that you think your children will enjoy, and share the list with them.
- Make a list of any websites you think are inappropriate, and tell your children not to visit them or purchase parental control software from a commercial vendor.
- Agree with your children on rules about what they can and cannot do online, when they can go on the Internet, and how long they can stay.
- Keep the computer in a central area of the house where you can observe your child's behavior.
- Agree to a contract for family cell phone use with your child.
- Ask your children who they visit online and who they email or text.
- Set limits on how many messages or how much money children can spend on their wireless use each month.
- Tell your children never to give out personal information, such as their real names, school names, or their home or school addresses.
- Tell your children never to agree to meet online acquaintances in person.
- Tell your children never to harass anyone online.
- Being bullied online or in a text message is serious; make sure your children know they can come to you for help if this happens to them.
- Tell your children never to send a picture of someone to another person by email or text message without the prior permission of that person.
- Make sure your children know that if anything online or in a text message makes them feel uncomfortable, they can come to you and tell you about it.
- Make sure your children know that if they feel uncomfortable with something they receive online or by text message, or that they are in trouble because of something that happened online, that they can come to you for help. Remember, your children may need help, and penalties such as removing the computer or restricting access to a wireless device can be counterproductive. If your children come to you, listen to them and don't judge them.



**National Crime Prevention Council**  
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**The Wireless Foundation**  
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