



THE FAMILY TREE

Internet Safety Tips For Parents and Kids

During the summer, children will have more time on their hand and undoubtedly more time on the computer. The internet can be a wonderful resource for both adults and children. It can allow children to easily access information for their homework, connect with their friends or relatives, or research issues that are of interest to them. However, the internet can also be dangerous. As easily as children can locate useful information, children can also access information that is unsuitable and communicate with people they shouldn't come in contact with. Here are some tips written by the Madison Police Department on how parents can help their children use the internet safely.

Safety Guidelines for Parents:

- Talk to your child about danger online.
- Spend time with your child online. Understand how the Internet works, and how your child uses it.
- Keep the computer in a common area of the house.
- Utilize site-blocking software and/or parental controls provided by your online service provider.
- Randomly check your child's e-mail. Be alert to packages your child may receive through the U. S. mail.
- Teach your child to use the Internet's many resources. Don't let your child limit their internet use to just chat rooms.
- Be aware of your child's online use at school, the library and at the homes of your child's friends.
- Understand that if your child is the victim of an online predator, your child is not at fault.

Safety Guidelines for Kids:

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school, or any identifying information about my school, without my parents' permission.
- I will tell my parents/guardian/or other responsible adult right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I meet online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will make sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father or guardian along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.

- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents/guardian right away. Specifically, I will not respond to obscene or threatening messages.