

IMPORTANT LINKS

Web Wise Kids -
www.webwisekids.org

Safe Kids - www.safekids.com

NetSmartz -
www.netsmartz.org

iKeepSafe -
www.ikeepsafe.org

Get Net Wise -
www.getnetwise.org

Educational Cyber Playground
- www.edu-cyberpg.com/morestuff4.html

United States Computer
Emergency Readiness Team -
www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST05-002.html

National Center for Missing
and Exploited Children's
"Keeping Kids Safer on the
Internet" -
www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC168.pdf

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE



A major concern for parents is the safety of their children. Their safety while online is certainly included in that general concern. CompuMend has gathered the below recommendations for parents gathered from personal experience and numerous resources to assist in creating safe environments and experiences online.

- **Set clear rules for Internet use.** Create a list of Internet house rules as a family. Include the kinds of sites that are off limits, Internet hours, what information should not be shared online, and guidelines for communicating with others online, including social networking.
- **Insist that your children not share personal information** such as their real name, address, phone number, or passwords with people they meet online.
- **If a site encourages kids to submit their names** to personalize the Web content, help your kids create online nicknames that give away no personal information.
- **Keep Internet-connected computers** in an open area where you can easily supervise your kids' activities. Authorities suggest not in a teen's bedroom.
- **Help protect your children from** offensive pop-up windows by using the pop-up blocker that's built in to your web browser.
- **Encourage your children to tell you** if something or someone online makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened.
- **Insist that they never agree to meet an online friend.**
- **Teach your kids not to download** programs, music, or files without your permission.
- **Help protect them from spam.** Tell your teens not to give out their e-mail address online, not to respond to junk mail, and to use e-mail filters.
- **Be aware of the photos** that teens post of themselves and their friends.
- **Teach your kids responsible,** ethical, online behavior. They should not be using the Internet to spread gossip, bully, or threaten others.
- **Make sure your teens check with you** before making financial transactions online, including ordering, buying, or selling items.
- **Discuss online gambling** and its potential risks with your teens. Remind them that it is illegal for them to gamble online.¹

Download and study the FBI's "A Parent's Guide to internet Safety" at:
<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>