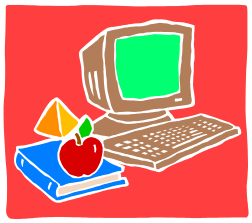
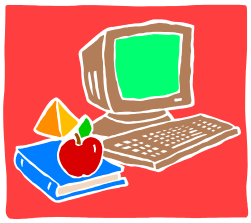


Internet Safety



The Internet plays a vital role in our children's lives. Kids these days are incredibly computer savvy and know more about technology than most adults. The Internet can be a valuable educational tool as it provides endless resources on various topics. However, if not used appropriately, the Internet can also be a dangerous place for our children. In order to keep our children safe and protected, it is important for parents to be aware of the Internet's hazards and know what to do in a situation where a child might be at risk. Please read the tips below and remember to always communicate with your child about Internet safety.

Tips for Parents:

- Limit your child's time on the Internet.
- Supervise the websites your child is visiting and block the ones that you think are inappropriate.
- Place the computer in a common area so that you can easily monitor your child's activity on the computer.
- Do not allow you child to visit private chat rooms.
- Teach your child not to respond to unfamiliar, offensive, or threatening emails or instant messaging.
- Share an email account with your child so that you can monitor all incoming and outgoing messages.
- Share a password with your child and do not allow your child to give out this password to anyone.
- Explain to your child that people on the Internet may or may not be who you think they are.
- Be informed: visit www.cybertipline.com to learn chat room lingo such as POS = Parent Over Shoulder.
- Have a contract with your child that outlines clear rules and guidelines for using the Internet appropriately in the house. Please visit www.safekids.org for a printable version of a child/parent contract.
- Contact your Internet provider if you need to report and block suspicious or unwanted web addresses.
- In addition to Internet safety on the computer, please be aware of your child's phone usage such as text messaging and if a child has access to the Internet through a phone.