

What can you do?

- Being pro-active is key to keeping your children safe online.
- Don't wait for something bad to happen online. Keep the internet in a public room
- Talk to your child about the dangers
- Create your own profile, ask your children to help to.
- Draw up a contract

What to look for

- What's their site name?
- What's their screen or login name?
- What personal information are they giving out? (School, names, city, phone, email etc.)
- Review their site for language you disapprove of.
- Ask to see all the pictures they have posted
- Look at their friends and the comments they have posted.
- Click on their friend's links or pictures to visit their site, is it appropriate?

Tips for keeping safe

- Embrace the internet, it's a great thing and it's here to stay.
- Think about having a contract with your child and set some rules.
- Ask to see their "buddy list" and have them physically describe their friends so that you are sure it is someone they have met.
- Create your own site, try "Face Book" see how additive it can be.
That way you will also learn to communicate on their level.
- Don't be shocked by the language or spellings that you see.
- Talk to them about not disclosing personnel details or too much information about themselves.
- Talk with them about any news / media coverage so they see that this is a REAL problem.
- Agree that on rare occasions you will ask to view their site.
- If you set up your own account you can check that your child's profile is set to private
- And very important, ask them to think about how they would feel if what they were doing / saying would appear at a job interview in the future.

HELPFUL WEB SITES

www.transl8it.com

www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety

www.thinkuknow.com

www.ceop.gov.uk

www.childnet-int.org

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.missingkids.com

www.theparentsedge.com