Online safety with your kids

Presented by Andrew Duey

How safe is the internet?

- Internet is like a public park
  - Generally good and safe but there are good places and bad places
  - Always require supervision

- Sites like MySpace, Facebook & other's:
  - Allow people to connect with each other to share thoughts, feelings, pictures, and other information.
  - Not bad by themselves but require parental vigilance
  - Make if you permit them to use it, make sure you can monitor it
    - Make sure their profile is private (for friends only)
    - Have your own account
    - Have access to their account
    - Be prepared to block all access

Some ideas:[1]

- Keep your computer in a public space
- Spend "cybertime" with your child
- Teach Internet rules & consequences
  - Parent your values online
- Limit time—keep kids busy beyond screens
- Stay involved

Some Methods:

- Internet monitoring & blocking software
  - CyberPatrol (time restrictions, multiple children, set filter levels, etc)
  - Netnanny
  - Cybersitter
- Restricting computer access
  - Have password put on the computer (BIOS, Windows, etc)
  - Remove and lock up the cable modem (not just cables)
- Do not allow them to use a private e-mail account
  - Have them use the same e-mail account as the rest of the family (one that you check too)
  - Just like getting letters in a common mailbox
- Test your tools on a regular basis
  - If you're using monitoring software try to access forbidden sites
  - Review the logs or internet history (if it's blank, someone's covering)

Talk to your kids

- Start with Kim Komando's 10 commandments for kids on-line: http://www.komando.com/kids/

- Use the Internet to help fuel their interests in other subjects
  - Find websites about weather, dinosaurs, race cars, etc.
  - Find discussion forums for their hobbies if they're older
  - Show them some of what you do on the internet (e-mailing relatives, genealogy, maps & directions, etc)

Some Sample Internet Guidelines[1]

- Rules from "real" life apply: courtesy, kindness, modesty, dignity, respect for the law and for others, etc.
- Don't talk to strangers.
- Keep your private information private.
- Never agree to meet an online friend without your parents.
- There are no guarantees that what you say or post on the Internet is private.
- Information, including photos, videos, etc, posted on the Internet can last forever.
- Tell your parents if you encounter something uncomfortable.
- Don't reply to unknown screen names on IM.
- Never open e-mail from strangers or click on any attachments.
- Find the "good" online – good friends, good Web sites, good games – and enjoy.

Bottom line

- Keep an eye on your kids and your computer

- Make decisions based on age

- Know where they go and be involved in their computer & online adventures!

Additional resources:

- This presentation will be posted online at: http://www.duey.biz/goodies.html

- Please feel free to ask me questions after the presentation

- You can e-mail me at: andrew@duey.biz too.

- Questions?

- Sources & Credits:
[1]http://www.childrenspartnership.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Speeches_and_Presentations&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=9066

http://www.komando.com/kids/

The Kim Komando Show
10 Commandments For Kids Online

The Internet can be an unsafe place. I am making this agreement with my parents to help keep me, my family and my friends safe.

1 My parents and I will decide when I am allowed to use the computer and the Internet. I promise not to ask or fight for more computer time. I will only do things and visit places that they say I can.

2 I will never tell anyone online or post online that I am home alone. I won't give out my last name, my home address or telephone number, the name of my school or teachers, where my parents work or their telephone numbers without getting my parents' permission. I will never give out my friends' screen names, e-mail addresses, names, addresses and telephone numbers, and I will remind them to keep mine a secret.

3 If anyone online does anything that bothers me, I will tell my parents. I will never use bad language, say bad things about other people, or send mean messages in an e-mail, text or instant message, chat room, blog, or on a Web site. I will tell my parents if someone does that to me. If I use "secret" or "code" words online, I will tell my parents what they mean.

4 When I use instant messaging, e-mail, chat rooms, or Web sites where people put information about themselves, I will never send or post a picture of my family or me. If I set up a blog or an online profile, I will tell my parents where it is and how they can read it.

5 I WILL NEVER, EVER MEET WITH ANYONE I'VE TALKED TO ONLINE WITHOUT FIRST TALKING WITH MY PARENTS.

6 If my parents ask me for my password, I will give it to them. I will NEVER give out my passwords or any of our family's passwords to anyone, not even my friends or other family members.

7 If I want to download any games, movies, music, or programs, I will ask for permission. I know I must pay for most of these things. If I take them, that is stealing.

8 I will not try to win free things or buy things on the Internet without my parents' permission. If I get a message that I won something, I will show it to my parents. If I get an e-mail asking for passwords or other secret stuff, I will ask my parents.

9 I will not open any of my parents' files. I will not change any settings or install any new software without my parents' permission.

10 I give my parents permission to look on the computer to see where I have gone on the Internet, the e-mail and text messages I have sent and received, or what I do in a chat room. If my parents installed programs that track what I do on the computer or limit where I go online, I promise not to turn those programs off.

X _____

CHILD'S SIGNATURE
I have read the above and agree to follow these rules. If I don't, my parents can take away the privilege of using the Internet.

X _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE
I agree to let my child use the Internet so long as these rules are followed.