INTERNET SAFETY

The Internet holds incredible potential and educational value for youth in Canada. However, along with its benefits, it can also be a dangerous place if children are not properly monitored. Cybertip.ca receives countless reports from the public whereby children and adolescents are not using the Internet safely. This includes the use of webcams and posting images, revealing personal information or engaging in other high risk behaviour.

1. Parents must take responsibility for their children's online computer use. Get to know what internet services (chat, e-mail, web, etc.) for example MSN, Facebook and Twitter are chat sites that children are commonly using. Consider surfing with your child; make it a fun and constructive way to spend time with your child.

2. Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer on-line use by your children, such as:

   ✓ amount of time spent on-line;
   ✓ user names, nick names as well as passwords should *ONLY* be shared with the parents
   ✓ children should tell parents or guardian when they feel uncomfortable, scared, or confused;
   ✓ never give out personal information such as name, home address, phone number, age, race, family income, school name or location, or friends' names;
   ✓ agree on reasonable consequences if rules/guidelines are broken.

3. Keep computer in the open, well-used area of the house

4. Ideally, it is best to sit with the child when the child is on-line browsing the Internet or chatting with Internet friends. However, time is not always available. There are tools available to parents to help them monitor and/or manage what the child can access. These tools are categorized into:

   a) Software Tools - programs that are installed into the computers to monitor and/or limit what web pages can be accessed through the computer. These parental control programs can be further categorized into:

      • **Internet/network filtering** is a software that sits between the computer and the internet that will only allow specific connections or servers to connect to client computer or disallow connections from specific servers and/or protocol.
      • Some Internet filtering programs available are Netnanny, cybersitter, cyberpatrol.
      • **Filtered browsers** are replacement web-browsers which have the rules as to which web pages can or cannot be displayed on the computer.

REMEMBER THE INTERNET IS A GREAT TOOL BUT WE MUST REMEMBER TO USE IT WISELY

For further information please contact us:

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