

10 Tips for Parents

- 1) Don't forbid Internet use: in all probability, your kids will defy your ban on the sly.
- 2) Filtering software won't block all dangers your kids face on the Web, but it's a good start. Also visit sites with your child whenever possible.
- 3) Understand the technologies: Take a class, check out the Web resources listed on page 94, and try the sites yourself. The more you know about the Internet, the better you can talk to your kids about it.
- 4) Place the computer in a common area of your home; kids won't expect privacy there.
- 5) Talk to the parents of your child's friends: most kids use computers at friend's homes.
- 6) Teach your kids the "embarrassment rule": They should never post anything they wouldn't want everyone to read.
- 7) Tell them to be careful about what they post regarding other people. Predator-friendly information is often left by friends posting comments.
- 8) Let your child know that it's important to tell you if he or she is ever approached online or receives inappropriate content.
- 9) Look for the red flags that your child is in danger, such as minimizing a browser when you enter the room and getting phone calls from people you don't know.
- 10) If you think that there may be a problem, report it to the authorities and also to your Internet service provider.