

## Tips To Keep Your Child Safe

- *Stay connected with your child.* Do your best to stay interested and involved in your child's life, both off- and on-line. You'll be much more likely to see or hear warning signs alerting you to a possible problem.
- *Place your computer in a common area.* If the computer is located in an area such as the living room or kitchen, then there will probably be more foot traffic. Kids are less likely to do something they know they shouldn't be doing when others are around. This also gives parents the opportunity to monitor their computer use without seeming to hover or "spy."
- *Monitor chat and social networking activity.* Be aware of the sites your child is visiting and to whom they are talking online. Ask them questions about their virtual friends just as if they were friends from school.
- *Use a common family email.* Parents will be better able to supervise children's online communications, and children will be less likely to talk with someone they are not suppose to.
- *Explain the dangers to your children.* Don't just tell them they can't do something and leave it at that. This just makes children want to do it all the more, because they don't know WHY. Explain the WHY- there are certain sites that are not okay for them to visit; there are people online who do not always mean well; there is certain information that people who do not know them should not know. Children are more likely to cooperate when they understand these reasons.

The Internet isn't all bad though! There are many good reasons to let your child get online.

- *Research Tool*

It's a great place for children to go when they have school projects, need homework help, or just have questions about life in general.

- *Communication Tool*

Children are able to keep in touch with friends, family and even teachers through instant messaging, social networking sites, and email.

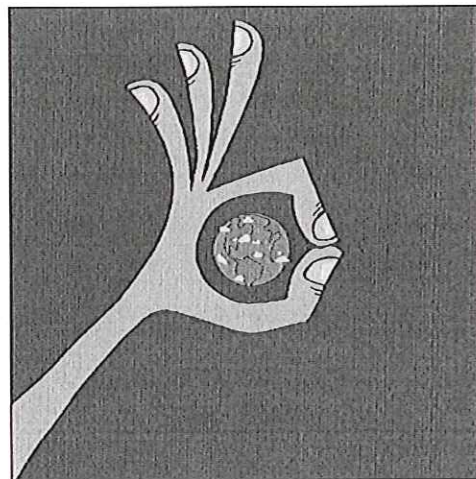
- *Interactive Games*

Playing games on the computer or video game consoles with friends, family members, or someone they've never met from another country can be great social and learning opportunities!

- *Educational Tool*

There are many games and websites that are educational, but also a lot of fun. Children can work on their reading, spelling, and math skills. Just by being online, children are learning typing and research skills. By setting guidelines, they are also learning how to make responsible choices and follow directions.

The world is there for your child to discover!



# Websites

Check out the following websites for tips and activities

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org) Reading tips and ideas

[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com) Reading articles, order forms for books

[www.jumpstart.com](http://www.jumpstart.com) Reading games, stories,

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) Reading with phonics, K-1<sup>st</sup> grade

[www.storyplace.org](http://www.storyplace.org) Interactive stories, free worksheets

[www.ABCya.com](http://www.ABCya.com) Fun games that promote reading

[www.childtopia.com](http://www.childtopia.com) Listening and Comprehension, letter recognition

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) various math and reading games

[www.literactive.com](http://www.literactive.com) various reading skill games

[www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org) your student can use their log in information to access various websites (Pinellas County School District)



There are hundreds of sites, go online and find the ones that you and your child would enjoy using. Read the back for internet safety.