

Protecting Youth on the Internet

1. Maintain open lines of communication between parents and children.
2. Never, under any circumstances, reveal personal information over the Internet. Be careful not to reveal this information in chat rooms, surveys or on web sites.
2. Never agree to meet a person you have met on the Internet.
4. Teach children to stop using the Internet immediately and advise parent if they see or read anything that upsets them.
5. Keep your computer with the Internet access in a high traffic area of the home.
6. Restrict access to the Internet when there is no supervision available.
7. Monitor long distance telephone bills for unknown telephone numbers.
8. Sign an Internet Family Safety Contract (available on www.calgarypolice.ca) with all Internet users within the home.
9. Select a family-friendly Internet Service Provider (ISP). Some ISP's offer guidelines for parents, provide clear help in setting up parental control features, provide kids-only areas, block child pornography from their newsgroup servers, help find interesting kid sites on the Internet and respond quickly to reports of online abuse. Others leave these issues up to parents to figure out on their own.
10. Use protective software including anti-virus and firewall protection. Research the use of parental monitoring software in certain circumstances.
11. Parents should take a course on use of the Internet or have their child teach them. Make it a family activity.

