



Ten Tips for Parents

Here are 10 tips for helping your child surf safely and knowledgeably online.

Stay Secure: Learn about what parental controls, firewall and antivirus protection you have. Check the Web site of your Internet Service Provider, computer manufacturer and operating system (e.g. Microsoft Windows, Vista or Apple's Mac OS X). Good overviews can be found at the websites of [GetNetWise \(getnetwise.org\)](http://getnetwise.org) and the National Cyber Security Alliance (staysafeonline.org).

Ask an Expert: If you don't feel knowledgeable about Internet issues, talk to your school or public librarian. They have a wealth of experience and resources to share.

Check What Rules Your Child's School Uses: Check with your child's school and learn about their "acceptable use policy" for Internet use. You may want to adopt those rules for online activities at home.

Stay Informed: Sign up for e-newsletters or discussion forums to keep up-to-date on Internet safety issues. Cable in the Classroom's Media Smart e-News (www.ciconline.org/enewsletterspub), Common Sense Media's Newsletter and Blog (www.common Sense Media.org), and iKeepSafe's Newsletter (ikeep safe.org/requests/newsletter.php) are good examples.

Be a Teacher and a Role Model: Teach your child about media literacy and Internet safety.

Develop Rules for Behavior with Your Child: Together with your child, develop and prominently post a set of rules and expectations for online behavior near the computer. Common Sense Media (www.common sense.com/internet-safety-tips) and NetSmartz Workshop (www.net smartz.org/resources/pledge.htm) have good examples.

Set Time Limits: Set limits for when and how long your child can be online.

Stay Involved: Put the computer in a public place where you can monitor your child's online activities.

Ask Questions and Show You're Interested: If your children are creating web pages, videos, blogs, or an online profile, ask them to show you what they are doing and explain their thinking in doing it that way.

Make Age-Appropriate Choices: Limit younger children to using child-friendly search engines like Yahoo!igans!/[Yahoo kids! \(kids.yahoo.com\)](http://Yahoo kids! (kids.yahoo.com)), Cable in the Classroom (ciconline.org) or other educational Web sites created for children.