

TIPS for PARENTS

Basic Rules for Children using the Internet

- Do not open emails from unknown persons. Delete such emails because they can contain viruses that can damage the computer.
- Do not give put personal information, such as name, age, address or information about family.
- Be wary of offers for “FREE GIFTS” and surveys.

Best Practices

- Talk to your kids about the dangers of online chat rooms. It is impossible for them to tell who they are talking to.
- Insist they NEVER provide personal information to anyone online (name, address, school, age, birthday etc.)
- A child’s screen name should not have any connections to their real name or email address.
- Keep the computer in a shared area, rather than in a child’s room.
- Control the time your child spends online.
- Become Internet literate. Find out what children are doing online and know how to check on what they are doing and the sites they have visited.
- Install filtering software. IT limited or prevents online chat and can help block the exchange of personal information. However, filters are not foolproof. Do not rely solely on them.

Red Flags of Criminal Activity:

- The child changes or minimizes screen when others are near. This may mean they are trying to hide activity. Ask to see the screen or use **ctrl-H to view history**.
- The child is suddenly spending more time online, especially at night.
- The child receives phone calls from unknown or new persons.
- The child has new clothes, other items, or money without explanation.
- The child is unusually upset if internet access is eliminated or curtailed for any length of time.
- The child becomes isolated from family and friends. This may signal the child is being “groomed” by a stalker.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, RESOURCES and
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www.cybertips.bm