Riverside Police Department

10 WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR CHILD'S INTERNET SAFETY

1. Set up the computer in a common room, not in your child's room, so it is easier to see what is being viewed on the internet.
2. Have your child show you what he/she knows how to do online, as well as their favorite sites.
3. Have access and randomly check your child's e-mail and chat room activity.
4. Get to know your child's online friends. Teach your child to never arrange a face to face meeting with someone he or she met on line.
5. Instruct your child not to give out identifying information, such as home address, telephone number, or school name, and not to send personal pictures to people who are strangers.
6. Find "child friendly search engines" that your child can use when working on school projects.
7. Install filtering software on your computer to guard against adult content. Consider the "whitelisting" feature that allows children access to only a preapproved list of sites.
8. Teach your child to never respond to threatening or offensive e-mail or chat room messages.
9. Tell your child not to download anything from the internet without your approval.
10. So everyone remembers, type up the specific internet safety instructions you want your child to know and post them near the computer.

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