Security and Privacy - Help your children surf safely on the Internet

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Teaching your children how to surf safely on the Internet can be a challenge as you yourself must first decide what is safe and how to teach your child what to do and where to go on the Internet to keep them from being exposed to inappropriate content.

Basically, implementing '**Safe Surfing**' is nothing more than limiting what websites your children use and visit and what rules they should follow when filing out information about themselves or answering questions about themselves. We have included several websites below that parents should visit and become familiar with to understand what 'private' data is and what to tell their children as well as what websites they should allow their children to use and how to control this access. Please read our articles "**Monitoring your children's access**" and "**Securing your Internet Connection**" for more information on solutions that can implement Parental Controls to 'black list' (block) or 'white list' (allow) websites that your children should or should not visit. The Internet Security Suites and even the DSL/Cable Routers also have Parental Control abilities with website blocking/allow controls. As parents, it is our responsibility to help and guide our children to Surf the Internet Safely. Sites like www.myspace.com, www.facebook.com and www.me.com should be blocked or monitored closely for information your children may be sharing with the general public. Personal websites like 'myspace'. 'facebook' and 'me.com' have information I would never allow my children to post, neither should you.

Younger Children

For younger children it is far easier until they learn how to 'Google' or visit websites on their own to use Child Friendly Web Portals like **www.Yahooligans.com**, **www.rcls.org/ksearch.htm** or **Google Kids and Teens** and setup your web browser to list the sites your child is allowed to visit and use an Internet Security Suite or Parental Control software to block the rest.

Websites for additional Information:

US National Sex Offender Registry

- http://www.familywatchdog.us/

Article from Cisco on Safe Surfing practices

- www.cisco.com/web/about/security/security_services/ciag/documents/InternetSafetyHandout2004.pdf

National Cyber Security Alliance

- www.staysafeonline.info/

Sites to help learn how to surf the Net safely

- www.surfnetkids.com/
- www.safekids.com/
- www.protectkids.com/
- http://netfamilynews.org/index.shtml
- http://tcs.cybertipline.com/
- www.missingkids.com/adcouncil/cpgn.html

Yahoo Kids Portal

- http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/

Safe Search & Homework Help for Kids, Parents, & Teachers

- www.weblens.org/children.html

Kid Safe Search Site listing

- www.sldirectory.com/searchf/kidsafe.html

Other solutions for safe surfing

- www.kidgrid.com/kghelp.htm

Other interesting sites

- www.kidshealth.org/
- www.overspy.com/products/
- www.internetfilterreview.com
- www.safetysurf.com
- www.rcls.org/ksearch.htm

We hope the information helped you to understand how you can monitor your children's computer and Internet use. if you have any questions or need assistance feel free to contact us as we are here to help!