

Ask BYFS

Parent Question: How can I keep my child safe on the internet?

Monitor, monitor, monitor is the best advice. For an idea of where to start to protect your child's safety, check out www.isafe.org or www.stopcyberbullying.org. There is also a Parent's Guide to the Internet put out by the Dept. of Education at www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/internet.

Here are some basic tips:

1. Place your child's computer in an area where you are best able to monitor his or her online activities.
2. Take an active interest in your child's online activities.
3. Warn your child never to reveal *any* identifying information such as: last name, ethnicity, age, address, phone number, school name, parents' names, parents' employers or work addresses.
4. Warn your child that identity is easily concealed online and that young people may not be who they claim to be.
5. Warn your child **never** to arrange an in-person meeting with someone met online.
6. Warn your child never to accept anything sent to him or her by a person met online.
7. Warn your child never to post online a photo of any family member without your permission.
8. Consider using filtering or blocking software.

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