

What Can I Do Today?

1. Learn How the Internet Works, Instant Messaging/ Chat and newsgroups.
2. Get Involved in your child's online life. Share the experience rather than just playing Censor.
3. Stay informed of new tools & latest information.
4. Become an advocate for kids. Report any objectionable material or practices to your ISP.



Safe Surfing on the Internet is
Everyone's Responsibility!

Acronyms and Terms Used in this Guide:

Bulletin Board - Electronic message center.
Chat-Online Instant Messaging either in groups or one on one.
Cybertime-Family time on computer.
E-Mail - Electronic Mail Messages
ISP - Internet Service Provider
Instant Messaging—Real time messaging one to one.
Newsgroups-Electronic Forum/Discussion group. Posted messages viewed with a news-reader.

Links & Resources:

www.netsmartz.org (Activities & Info)
www.safekids.com
www.netmom.com
www.ICRA.org
kids.getnetwise.org
www.childrenspartnership.org



AventuraCommunity
Recreation Center

3375 NE 188th Street
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Safe Surfing on the Internet

▶ A Guide for
Parents from the
City of Aventura

305-466-3883

▶ The World is in Your Kids' Hands...

The Internet gives us instant access to information, news, shopping, family, friends, work, education and entertainment. It also allows access to unwanted material and can make us subject to questionable practices for our privacy and identity. Children need our help and guidance to make the experience safe and appropriate.

Everyone's opinion of what is appropriate for our children varies. What is acceptable in one household is not in another. The idea is not to act as a "Censor", but to share the experience with your child and to teach him/her how to reap the benefits of the Internet without endangering themselves or your family.



The Internet is a global network.

Knowledge is Power

Being aware of how your kids can get into trouble on the Internet is key. Not only do you have to think of websites, but you have E-Mail, Instant Messaging and newsgroups (bulletin boards). Knowing how these features work can help you to monitor your child's online activities and keep them safe. Even cell phones have



Internet access and Instant Messaging. Be aware of new technologies which your children have access to.

Educating yourself is important, but educating your child about the Internet is even more so. Sites such as www.netsmartz.org offer free downloadable and online activities for kids and teens. Teaching your kids how the Internet works is your best insurance for keeping them safe online.

Know the technology your kids use.

Share

The issue of keeping your child's online experience safe, is not one of policing their activities or to scare them. Spend "cybertime" with your child. Use the experience to teach and learn. Being "street smart" in person applies to activities online. Teach your child the importance of not sharing personal information, pictures, and not to respond to unwelcome email, chat/bulletin board messages. This is a great way to reinforce values of responsibility and respect. Happy Surfing!



Spend "cybertime" with your child.



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