

rules for online safety...

- Youth, **DO** talk to your parents or teacher so that rules for going online are clearly understood.
- **DO NOT** provide personal information like your age, address, telephone number, school, or even your real name online. Information can **never** be removed completely from the Internet.
- **DO NOT** agree to get together with someone you meet online without checking with your parents first and taking an adult with you. Meet in a public place and encourage the other person to bring a parent or trusted adult also. Take a cell phone with you.
- **DO NOT** post (upload) pictures of yourself or send anyone a picture of yourself until you check with your parents.
- **DO NOT** download pictures or files from an unknown source.
- **DO NOT** provide your Internet password to anyone, (even your best friends), other than your parents.
 - **DO** change your password regularly.
 - **DO NOT** use bad language on the Internet or do anything that hurts or harasses another person.

<http://www>



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The Internet can be a great place to find games, activities, information and to "chat" with friends. One of the biggest draws of the Internet is anonymity, but this is also one of its dangers. Just like the street, there are lots of great people to meet, but there are some that are a real threat as well.

Protecting your identity is one of the great things about the Internet. The name you use doesn't have to reveal anything about the real you. It works the other way as well though... you don't always know who you are talking to. You should **ALWAYS** assume that the person on the other end of the computer might not be the person they claim to be.

joining a website...

While checking out websites and chatting with friends can be fun, you must be careful about what is discussed. If joining a website or chat room means providing personal information such as age, address, gender or sexual orientation, you do not need to provide your real information. Better yet, pick a different site.

chat rooms...

Chat rooms or "communities" are public forums where anyone can sign up and visit with others online in the chat room. They often have a theme where like-minded people can talk to each other.

Chat rooms are used by sexual predators to "groom" young people into providing personal information. The predator can then use this information to identify them and convince them to send photographs or meet them in person. These predators regularly monitor open chat rooms on MSN, Yahoo! Messenger and other chat programs. Remember, anyone can pretend to be someone else online! Here are a few tips...

1. Youth should **ALWAYS** get permission to join a chat room.
2. Use a gender-neutral screen name and **DO NOT** provide your age.
3. Look for a chat room that has a moderator.
4. Leave the chat room and find another if problems occur.
5. **NEVER** PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO ANYONE REGARDLESS OF HOW NICE THEY SEEM.



CHAT ROOMS ARE ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACES A YOUNG PERSON CAN VISIT ON THE INTERNET!

instant messaging: msn, facebook, yahoo, aol...

MSN Instant Messenger (IM) and other similar services such as Facebook and Yahoo are somewhat safer as the conversations are among people that have been accepted onto a contact list. A person should never accept someone that they don't know personally however... a risk still exists that a stranger is trying to take advantage of a naive Internet user. A good rule to follow is only chat on Instant Messaging with people that you would feel comfortable with talking to in person, namely your close friends and family.

web cams...

Predators often use web cams to collect photos of young people and can share these with other predators. Any photo posted to the Internet becomes public property. **NEVER** send photos of yourself to people you don't know well or post them on a website.

