

## WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE COMMUNITY

- Make sure that access to the Internet at your children's school is monitored by adults.
- Know your children's friends and their parents. If your child's friend has Internet access at home, talk to the parents about the rules they have established. Find out if the children are monitored while they are online.
- Make sure that your child's school has an Acceptability Use Policy (AUP) This policy should include a list of acceptable and unacceptable activities or resources, information on "netiquette" (etiquette on the Internet), consequences for violations, and a place for you and your child to sign. Your family can design its own AUP for the home computer.
- If your child receives threatening e-mails or pornographic material, save the offensive material and contact that user's Internet service provider and your local law enforcement agency immediately.



### ***INFORMATION RESOURCES***

- ♦ U.S. Department of Education (Parents Guide to the Internet)  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)
- ♦ National PTA  
[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
- ♦ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
[www.ncmec.org](http://www.ncmec.org)
- ♦ The Children's Partnership  
[www.childrenspartnership.org](http://www.childrenspartnership.org)
- ♦ Business Software Alliance: Cyber-Crime  
<http://www.bsa.org/cybercrime>
- ♦ National School Boards Association  
[www.nsba.org](http://www.nsba.org)
- ♦ McAfee.com Kids  
[kids.mcafee.com](http://kids.mcafee.com)



*A Certified  
Crime Prevention Community*



**VIRGINIA BEACH  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

## **Cybersafety For Kids Online**

**Partnerships= "SOLUTIONS"**



**A PARENT'S GUIDE**

## What To Do First

Set up a master account in your name and do not give your child the password. Many services allow you to create separate screen names for children, allowing you to block access to inappropriate areas.



Place the computer in a room where the whole family usually gathers together, such as the family or living room. This will make it easier to keep an eye on your child's

internet activities. Make it clear that if you cannot see what they are doing on line, then they are not allowed to do it.

**The best tool a child has for screening material found on the internet is his or her brain.**

Teach your children about child exploitation, pornography, hate literature, excessive violence, and other issues that concern you, so they will know how to respond when they see the material.

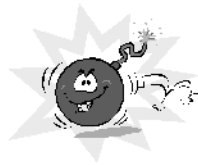
Discuss with your child ways to handle certain situations ahead of time. For example, discuss what to do if someone sends them a message over the internet that scares or threatens them or makes them feel uncomfortable.

Purchase blocking software and design your own safety system. Different packages can block sites by name, search for unacceptable words and block access to sites containing those words, block entire categories of material, and prevent children from giving out personal information.

## Using the Internet

- ♦ Establish a clear set of rules and guidelines for computer use by your children and post them near the computer.
- ♦ Make Internet surfing a family activity and get involved in your children's internet activities.
- ♦ Help your child find healthy, positive web sites and bookmark them on the computer.
- ♦ Speak openly with your children and encourage them to come to you if they encounter anything that makes them uncomfortable in any way. Encourage them to trust their instincts regarding bothersome material.
- ♦ If your child encounters threatening or obscene material on the Internet, report it to the sender's Internet service provider immediately.

## Rules of the Road



- ♦ Be careful and responsible
- ♦ **NEVER** give out his or her name, address, phone number, or school name to anyone online.
- ♦ **NEVER** send a picture of yourself or any other family member to anyone online without explicit parental permission .
- ♦ **NEVER** arrange to meet another computer user face to face, or speak on the phone with one, without explicit parental permission.
- ♦ **NEVER** respond to messages that are obscene, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable in any way.
- ♦ **NEVER** enter an area that charges for services without receiving explicit parental permission.
- ♦ **ALWAYS** tell you or another trusted adult if they encounter anything on the internet that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- ♦ **REMEMBER** that people online may not be who they say they are.

Follow these rules even when at school or at a friends house. Children have access to the Internet in many places, but they should know that the same rules apply no matter where they are.

## Places to Find Safety Products

- ♦ Many parents have found that blocking software is an effective way to protect their children from harmful or inappropriate material on the internet.
- ♦ Different products offer various levels of parental input or control. So it is important to investigate each one carefully in order to choose the product that is best for you and your family.
- ♦ To find software you can load onto your computer, contact your Internet access provider or search on the Internet using such keywords as "protective software" or "blocking software."
- ♦ Even with blocking software, it is possible that your child might come across something you feel is inappropriate. Talk to your children about issues that concern you such as exploitation, pornography, hate literature, or excessive violence so that they know how to respond when they encounter such things both online and in the real world.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Virginia Beach Police Department  
**Crime Prevention Unit**  
2509 Princess Anne Road, Bldg. 15  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

**Phone:** 757-385-1006

**Fax:** 757-385-1064

**Web Site:** [www.VBgov.com](http://www.VBgov.com)