

# Internet Safety Tips

Open communication with your child is vital. Your child needs to feel they can come to you if they encounter frightening communications or images without fear of losing Internet privileges

## Teach Your Children The Following Rules:

- Never accept files or downloads from unknown sources; this includes familiar sources if you were not expecting them. Accepting files or downloads from unknown sources can bring a virus that could harm the computer.
- Choose an email address/ screen name that DOES NOT contain any part of your name, age, gender, interests or favorite activities.
- Do Not fill out a profile without parent review and approval.
- Never give out real name, telephone or cell phone number(s), mailing address, or passwords. Giving away personal information can lead to identity theft or worse.
- Do Not enter chat rooms. People may not be who they say they are online -- predators roam cyberspace
- Do Not post photographs in publicly accessible sites.
- The settings for ANY social networking profiles\* should be PRIVATE and new friends are accepted only if they are known to the child AND parent.
- Do Not allow children to use a webcam unless an adult is present. Posting pictures online or sending images can have dangerous consequences.
- Report Cyberbullying to an adult. (Cyberbullying refers to the practice of using technology to harass, or bully, someone else).