



## World Wide Web

The World Wide Web consists of "pages" of information available to anyone who has access to the Internet. These pages can be accessed either by typing in a specific URL (online address) or by

using search engines to search the web by keyword or topic. Most web pages contain "links" that allow users to connect instantly to related web pages. Often, sites will have unsolicited advertisements that "pop up" or automatically link to another page.

### Potential Dangers

- Your child may accidentally or unintentionally enter a site that contains adult or child pornography or promotes violence, bigotry, drug use, or other harmful behaviors.
- Your child may be deceived into giving out personal information by falling for a marketing scheme such as an innocent sounding survey or contest.
- You child may be exposed to the marketing of drugs and/or alcohol that is geared toward children. The Internet does not restrict or regulate this type of advertising.
- Your child may download games that contain excessive violence or that promote hatred.

### Precautions

- Tell your child to use the "back" key if he/she encounters a site that causes discomfort or fear. If the page won't close or return to the preceding page, exit the web browser.
- Report any site that contains child pornography directly to the Center for Mission and Exploited Children ([www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org); 1-800-THE LOST).
- Advise your child not to participate in any online surveys or contests. Do not let them make online purchases without your permission.
- Always check the posted privacy policies of a web site before transmitting any personal information.
- Review with your child the history folder of your web browser in order to be informed about the sites your child is visiting. If your child is reluctant to do so, or if he/she consistently clears the history folder, this may be a warning to you that they are viewing inappropriate material.

## Warning Signs

It's normal for teenagers and pre-teens to place a high value on their privacy. However, parents need to realize that covert behavior often is an indicator of inappropriate Internet use. Other warning signs include:

- Turning off the computer or monitor screen quickly when a parent enters the room
- Demonstrating a marked change in behavior, beliefs or attitudes
- Sudden and significant decrease in academic performance
- Parents finding pornographic, racist, or drug-related material on computer
- Use of multiple on-line accounts (email, blogs, social networks)
- Making and/or receiving unexplained long-distant calls
- Unexplained and/or unauthorized use of credit card while online



### What Parents Should Do

Your appropriate response will depend on your level of concern. If you believe your child is in danger, contact the police immediately. You should also contact authorities if:

- You child has received pornography online or via cell phone.
- You child has been solicited sexually by someone who knows or should know that he/she is a minor.
- Your child has received sexually explicit images from someone who knows or should know that he/she is a minor.
- Your child has been threatened.

If you become concerned that your child's mental, physical, or social development is being adversely affected by his/her online activities, seek professional assistance. School guidance counselors or your child's pediatrician can assist you in seeking help.

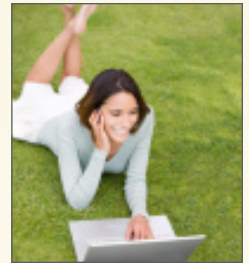
# GARDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

## THE INTERNET YOUR CHILD & YOU

### WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Dear Parent:

This guide was written to explain basic safety measures you can take to ensure that your child's experiences on the Internet are safe, fun, and productive. The most important thing you can do to keep your child safe is to keep communication open. Explain the dangers that exist, set clear rules for Internet use in your home, and encourage your child to share his or her Internet experiences with you.



### Privacy and the Internet Three Simple Rules

- Do not let your child post his/her full name or personal information on any social networking site.
- Be vigilant that schools, camps, or other organizations do not post your child's picture along with his/her full name on any web page.
- Prevent any personal information (age, physical address, school, parents' names, etc.) from appearing on web sites.

### FaceBook -- MySpace -- Xanga -- Twitter

These are **Social Networks**--web sits where you can create your own profile, page, or "node". Nodes are linked to other nodes via "ties" -- individual personal likes and dislikes, shared friends, related topics. etc. These social networks are mostly unmonitored. Be aware that they can be a source of uncensored information. For more information, do a search for social network listings.

## Chat, Email, Text, and Web Slang and Acronyms:

AAK	alive and kicking	BAK	back at keyboard	FITB	fill in the blank	P911	parent in the room	TTYL	talk to you later
AAR	at any rate	BBL	be back later	GF	girlfriend	POS	parent looking over shoulder	TYT	take your time
AAS	alive and smiling	BCNU	be seeing you	GGOH	gotta get out of here	RL	real life (not online)	WFM	works for me
ADN	any day now	BRB	be right back	H&K	hugs and kisses	RSN	real soon now	WTGP	want to go private
AFAIK	as far as I know	BTW	between you and me	KIT	keep in touch	SPST	some place, some time	YBS	you'll be sorry
AFN	that's all for now	CUOL	see you on line	LOL	laughing out loud	SYL	see you later	YL	young lady
AOTA	all of the above	DIKU	do I know you	OL	the old lady	TNT	'til next time	YM	young man
ASL	age, sex, location (asking for personal info)	F2F	face to face	OM	the old man	TTTT	these things take time	YW	you're welcome

### BASIC SAFETY RULES

#### Precautions:

- Place your child's or family computer in an area where you can monitor his/her online activities.
- Don't let children and teenagers access Internet sites from the privacy of their bedroom, without parental supervision or monitoring.
- Take an active interest in your child's online activities.
- Warn your child to never reveal any identifying information such as: last name, ethnicity, age, address, phone number, school name, parents' names, parents' employers or work address.
- Warn your child that identity is easily concealed. People online may not be who they claim to be. An online "friend" may actually be an adult or child predator.
- Warn your child never to arrange an in-person meeting with someone they have met online.
- Warn your child to never accept anything sent to him/her by someone they met online.
- Warn your child to never post online a photo of himself or of any family member or friend without specific permission. Online images are easily altered or "morphed" and used on other sites, even those that are pornographic.
- Strongly consider using filtering or blocking software. Many are free of charge. However, software is not always completely effective. Children can often bypass the restrictions or they may use another computer that is not equipped with such protective devices at a friend's house.



### EMAIL

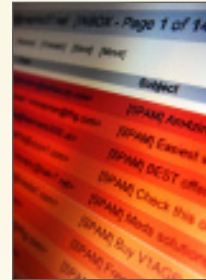
Email (electronic mail) is a way of sending messages from one computer to another. Children may have access to email accounts through your own Internet service provider, a school-based network, or through online, often free, email accounts like Hotmail, Yahoo, or Google.

#### Potential Dangers:

- Your child may give out personal information to a dangerous stranger, such as a sexual predator or con-artist.
- Your child may respond to email from an unknown sender, thereby revealing his/her email address to someone who should not have it.
- Your child may receive hassling or threatening emails as well as unsolicited email (SPAM) that may contain sexually explicit information.

#### Precautions:

- Consider sharing an email account with your child, or have his/her email account routed through your account.
- Know your child's email user name and password so you can monitor if necessary.
- Warn your child not to respond or even open email if the sender is unknown.
- Warn your child not to respond to threatening or angry email, but to report it to you immediately.
- Warn your child not to share his/her email account information (user name and password) with anyone.
- Never put anything in an email message that you couldn't put on a postcard. Email is not necessarily private since it can be copied and forwarded instantaneously.
- Know that sending threatening or harassing emails can be considered a criminal offense.



### CHAT ROOMS

A chat room is an online service that allows multiple users to communicate with each other in "real time". Teens are using chat rooms and instant messaging to talk to each other anytime, anyplace.

#### Potential Dangers:

- Your child may encounter someone who targets him or her for victimization or cyber bullying.
- Your child may encounter a sexual predator who is searching for victims online.
- Your child may be exposed to offensive language and adult content.
- You child may commit a crime, such as transmitting a threat of violence.



#### Precautions:

- Avoid choosing provocative or identifiable nicknames (i.e. sexyteen, oshkoshgal). Keep all personal information, including real names, out of online profiles.
- Remind your child that visitors to chat rooms often disguise their real identity.
- Warn your child that sexual predators often enter chat rooms and "lurk" -- that is, they observe conversations but don't participate in order to discover personal information.
- Warn your child about the common questions predators ask: (1) Are you home alone? (2) Who uses this computer? and (3) Where is this computer? If these questions arise, have them leave the chat room immediately and alert you.
- Warn your child to never "go private" in a chat room. Predators seek to chat privately when targeting a victim.
- Warn your child to never accept files or attachments sent by someone he/she met online.