Internet Safety Tips for Parents
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1. Don't spy on your children. Instead, tell them that the Internet is both a valuable tool for finding information and a place where kids can get into trouble. Therefore, for as long as they are under the age of 18, you feel it is your responsibility to monitor what they are doing online, and you fully intend to discharge that responsibility. Your motto should be, "trust, but verify."

2. Ask them to tell you about each online service they use and to share with you their usernames and passwords.

3. Request that your children add you, or another adult you trust, as a friend on the social networking sites, such as Facebook, they use. This is not an issue of privacy; most kids have several hundred online friends. This is about you, or another trusted adult, helping to monitor what your child is revealing publicly to a large group of people.

4. Do not abuse your right to monitor them by zealously reviewing every e-mail, text or instant message they send. Your role is that of a "safety monitor." Do not confront your children over anything but serious issues of safety.

5. Check their Web surfing history by going to "History" in the menu bar of your browser. If they repeatedly erase their surfing history, they are probably hiding something.

6. Recommend child-safety education sites to your children; perhaps visit those Web sites together in order to discuss the issues. Games and quizzes with cartoon mascots may be a good way to introduce children to the threats of the Internet, but an open line of communication about Internet use is the single most important tip you'll read on these sites.

7. One of the most powerful ways to protect your children online is to literally watch what they are doing. Keeping home computers in common areas rather than in your children's bedrooms will make it easier to keep an eye on what they're doing online.

8. There are many software options built into your Web browser to help you filter the parts of the Internet your children can access, preventing adult content and inappropriate sites from being viewed.