



INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

On MySpace, Tell Your Child...

To **set profile to private**-only friends can view, or only those under 18

To **pre-approve comments**

To require an email address or name for someone to be allowed to request him/her as a friend

Not to include quizzes on her/his profile

Not to add personal info about his/her school, age, location (including nearby landmarks like malls or highways) or last name...and definitely **NOT** pictures.

Other Internet Safety Tips

Make sure your child **does not meet anyone** in person that he/she met online

Keep computer in common room, like kitchen or living room (**NOT** the bedroom)

Try **internet safety programs**/parental controls like monitoring/filtering/whitelisting/blacklisting

Examples include *Net Nanny* for Windows, *Content Barrier* for Mac, or your Internet Service Provider's (ISP) parental controls

Check "**history**" and **internet cookies** ("Tools" then "Internet Options")

Use Ad-Aware to block pop-ups and an anti-virus protection program and never click on internet advertising – it causes SPAM!!!

Ask your child to tell you if he/she comes across anything on the internet that makes him/her uncomfortable

Internet Safety Definitions

BLOG – short for "web log" – a type of web page that serves as a publicly accessible personal journal (or log) for an individual. Typically updated daily, blogs often reflect the personality of the author. Examples include Livejournal, Blogger, Xanga, MySpace blogs.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE – web service specifically created to allow individuals to connect and network with other individuals. Each user has his or her own "network" of friends. These sites often have blog components as well. Examples include MySpace, Friendster, Facebook, and MiGente.

CHATROOM/MESSAGEBOARD – a website or part of a website or online service that provides a venue for communities of users with a common interest to communicate in real time. AOL and Yahoo both have chatrooms where individuals can search by topic and join discussions with other users.

INSTANT MESSAGING (IM) – the ability to exchange text messages with other internet users in real time. The most popular IM site is AOL's instant messenger AIM, though Google, Yahoo, and MSN also provide this service.

SCREENNAME (SN) – the name a person chooses to use when chatting with others online. This name may contain part of the person's name, references activities the person enjoys, or may be completely random or anonymous.

PROFILE – Online description of the user, connected to a blog, social networking site, chatroom, or IM usually containing a variety of personal information including the user's name, picture, location, age, or hobbies and is searchable by anyone.