

## Internet Tips for Parents

The internet can be a wonderful source of knowledge and entertainment for children. It is a world of fun, learning, creativity and communications. With children now using the internet at a younger age, it can be seen as a part of every day life.

However, the internet is not controlled by any organisation and therefore there are risks involved with its use. It can be a dangerous place if children are not taught how to use it safely and are not supervised while online.

It is natural to be concerned for your child's safety in all areas of life. The internet is no different.



There are many ways that you as a parent can help to protect your children from these dangers and ensure that your child's online experience is happy and productive.

- Talk to your children about potential dangers on the internet and your concerns.
- Make surfing the internet a family activity especially with younger children.
- Set family rules for using the internet such as when it can be used and for how long.
- Ensure that your children never give personal information or meet with an on-line friend without permission.
- Keep the computer in a busy room in the house where you can see it.
- Encourage your children to talk to you about anything "uncomfortable" they may find on the internet.

- Learn how to use the computer and the internet yourself. Take an interest in what your children do on-line.

The following are just a few of the kid friendly sites available online today;

- [www.yahooligans.com](http://www.yahooligans.com) - The site features a search engine, plus tons of cool content, including news, games, jokes, music and more.
- [www.dublinzoo.ie](http://www.dublinzoo.ie) – Get all the information you need from opening times, fun animal facts and find out what it takes to be a zookeeper.
- [www.coolquiz.com](http://www.coolquiz.com) – Kids can access an assortment of mind bending, brain busting trivia, puzzles and games through this great site.

The websites referred to in this leaflet and their content are the sole responsibility of the website providers.



## Top Tips for safer use of social-networking sites

- Set profiles to private so that only people you know and have granted permission to can access your page.
- Guard personal information online: even private profiles are not 100% secure.
- Think before you publish: information and photographs which are published online are there forever .
- Online 'friends' aren't always friends: be cautious when communicating with people online you don't know or trust.
- You aren't anonymous online: behaviour online can damage your real-life reputation.
- Don't respond to communication which makes you feel uncomfortable: tell a parent or a trusted adult about the situation immediately.

The following guides are available to download from [www.internetsafety.ie](http://www.internetsafety.ie)

- A parents' guide to new media technologies
- A parents' guide to filtering technologies
- A parents' guide to social-networking websites

If you come across content on the internet that you suspect to be illegal, please report it using the confidential [www.hotline.ie](http://www.hotline.ie) service.

For more Information Contact:

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c/o

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Harcourt Centre  
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This leaflet was produced by the Internet Advisory Board in association with BT Ireland.

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