Internet Tips for Parents

Modern technology brings both benefits and risks to our children. Learning to use E-mail, cruising the World Wide Web, and chatting with others who have similar interests can help a child gain valuable skills and develop emerging interests. By staying involved with our children's explorations and following some simple guidelines, we can help minimize the risks involved.

- Know your child's e-mail account and password.

- Talk with you child about the people he or she is meeting online.

- Complain to the sender of unsolicited e-mail and to your Internet Service Provider about unwanted e-mail.

- Keep the computer in a family area to monitor your child's activity and spend time online with your child.

- Teach children to end any experience online when they feel uncomfortable or scared.

- Teach your child never to give out personal information.

- Explain that people are not always who they say they are.

- Accompany children in the chat rooms until they learn safety rules.

SET A RULE THAT YOUR CHILD **NEVER** ARRANGES AN IN-PERSON MEETING WITHOUT YOU PRESENT!

Adapted from "Tools & Tips for Parents" produced by the Children's Partnership