



### **Internet Safety Tips for Kids**

**I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.**

**I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.**

**I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.**

**I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.**

**I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.**

**I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.**



### **Internet-Related Safety Tips for Teens**

- 1.** Don't give out personal information about yourself, your family situation, your school, your telephone number, or your address.
- 2.** If you become aware of the sharing, use, or viewing of child pornography online, immediately report this to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at **1-800-843-5678**.
- 3.** When in chat rooms remember that not everyone may be who they say they are. For example a person who says "she" is a 14-year-old girl from New York may really be a 42-year-old man from California.
- 4.** If someone harasses you online, says anything inappropriate, or does anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, contact your Internet service provider.
- 5.** Know that there are rules many Internet Service Providers (ISP) have about online behavior. If you disobey an ISP's rules, your ISP may penalize you by disabling your account, and sometimes every account in a household, either temporarily or permanently.
- 6.** Consider volunteering at your local library, school, or Boys & Girls Club to help younger children online. Many schools and nonprofit organizations are in need of people to help set up their computers and Internet capabilities.
- 7.** A friend you meet online may not be the best person to talk to if you are having problems at home, with your friends, or at school - remember the teenage "girl" from New York in Tip number three? If you can't find an adult in your school, church, club, or neighborhood to talk to, Covenant House is a good place to call at 1-800-999-9999. The people there provide counseling to kids, refer them to local shelters, help them with law enforcement, and can serve as mediators by calling their parents.
- 8.** If you are thinking about running away, a friend from online (remember the 14-year-old girl) may not be the best person to talk to. If there is no adult in your community you can find to talk to, call the National Runaway Switchboard at 1-800-621-4000. Although some of your online friends may seem to really listen to you, the Switchboard will be able to give you honest, useful answers to some of your questions about what to do when you are depressed, abused, or thinking about running away.<sup>2</sup>

Remember:

In many cases of infant abduction, the abductor was bilingual while the victim mother was not.

Healthcare facilities need to provide multilingual-educational information to these parents because infants' risk levels of abduction are substantially elevated when parents are not properly educated in their native language about the safety issues involved.

There are helpful tips CPT's should use when speaking to expectant parents. Their hospital experience should be exciting and happy. In today's world there are many opportunities for child abductions due to lack of staff, language barriers and dreadful protocol in hospital security.

**The following are positive steps that the parents can use to protect their newborn child.**

1. At some point before the birth parents should investigate security procedures at the facility where they plan to give birth.

It is a good idea to request a copy of the facility's written guidelines on procedures for "special care" and security procedures in the maternity ward. Know all of the facility's procedures in place to safeguard your infant while staying in that facility.

2. While it is normal for new parents to be anxious, being deliberately watchful over the newborn infant is of paramount importance.

3. A parent should never leave an infant out of their direct line-of-sight even when they go to the restroom or take a nap. If they leave the room or plan to go to sleep, they should alert the nurses to take the infant back to the nursery or have a family member watch the baby.

When possible, keep the infant's bassinet on the side of the bed away from the door(s) leading out of the room.

4. After admission to the facility, ask about the facility's protocols concerning the routine nursery procedures, feeding, visitation hours, and security measures. Do not hesitate to politely ask direct questions and settle for nothing less than an acceptable explanation.

5. Parents should not give their infant to anyone without properly verified identification as issued by that facility. Find out what additional or special identification is being worn to further identify facility personnel who have authority to transport the infant. Speak to a person in authority, such as a unit director or charge nurse, if they have any questions or concerns.

6. Parents should become familiar with the staffs that work in the maternity unit. During short stays in the facility, ask to be introduced to the nurse assigned to their infant.

7. Parents should question unfamiliar persons entering their room or inquiring about their infant—even if they are in the facility’s attire or seem to have a reason for being there. Immediately alert the nurses’ station.

8. Parent should determine where their infant will be when taken for tests, and how long the tests will take. Find out who has authorized the tests.

If the parent is uncomfortable with anyone who requests to take their infant or if they are unable to clarify what testing is being done or why the infant is being taken from your room, it is appropriate to go with the infant to observe the procedure. Or if you are unable to accompany your infant, have a family member go along.

9. For their records to take home, have at least one color photograph of their infant (full, front-face view) taken along with footprints and compile a complete written description of the infant including hair and eye color, length, weight, date of birth, and specific physical characteristics.

10. At some point after the birth of the baby, but before discharge from the facility, request a set of written guidelines on the procedures for any follow up care extended by the facility that will be scheduled to take place in the home.

Do not allow anyone into the home who says that he or she is affiliated with the facility without properly verified identification as issued by that facility. Find out what additional or special identification is being worn to further identify those staff members who have authority to enter the home.

11. Parents should consider the risk they may be taking when permitting your infant’s birth announcement to be published in the newspaper or online. Birth announcements should never include the family’s home address and be limited to the parents’ surname(s). In general, birth announcements in newspapers are not endorsed by most experts.

12. The use of outdoor announcements such as signs, balloons, large floral wreaths, and other lawn ornaments are not recommended to announce a birth because they call attention to the presence of a new infant in the home.

13. Only allow persons into your home who are well-known by the mother. It is ill advised to allow anyone into a home who is just a mere or recent acquaintance, especially if met briefly since becoming pregnant or giving birth. There have been several cases where an abductor has made initial contact with a mother and infant in the healthcare-facility setting and then abducted the infant. If anyone should arrive at the home claiming to be affiliated with the healthcare facility where the infant was born or other healthcare provider, remember to follow the procedures outlined in number 10 above.

Family members when home should exercise a high degree of diligence with the infant. The bottom line is, the infant’s family is the domestic security team, and all family members should be sensitive to any suspicious visitors.