



## Internet Safety: 5 Simple Tips to Keeping Your Kids Safe

1. **Establish the Rules:** Time limits, approved sites to visit, and using computers in an open area (not bedrooms) are great basic rules. This reminds your kids that compliance with these rules is required for computer use.
2. **Remove the Mystery:** Communication with your children about why certain sites are approved and others are not provides the opportunity for a dialogue about computer safety. Additionally, talking to your children about how offenders target kids through certain chat sites is important education. Do not skip over these simply because they're obvious; repetition is the most important factor in learning.
3. **Install a Filter:** Filters and family safety software are user friendly and easy to install.  
AVG Family Software: [www.downloadcrew.com/article/21398-avg\\_family\\_safety](http://www.downloadcrew.com/article/21398-avg_family_safety)  
Parental Control Software: [onlinefamily.norton.com/](http://onlinefamily.norton.com/)  
Windows Live Family Safety: [download.cnet.com](http://download.cnet.com)
4. **What's the Function?** Familiarize yourself with the purpose of the sites that your children visit from twitter and facebook to pinterest and gchat. The more that you understand the function of the site, the better prepared you are for possible dangers associated with its use.
5. **Internet Privacy Policies:** The Federal Trade Commission recommends that parents read up on privacy rights as they pertain to their children. "The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) gives parents control over what information websites can collect from their kids."  
<http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/privacyinitiatives/childrens.html>
6. **Search Engines** Use a child-friendly search engine as your homepage. These will help to exclude inappropriate websites from search results. Some to consider:  
<http://www.kidrex.org/> (provided by Google)  
<http://kids.yahoo.com/> (provided by Yahoo)  
<http://www.askkids.com/> (provided by Ask.com)