

Chart of Promises

Parent to young child	Young child to parent	Parent to teenager	Teenager to Parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'll teach you about the internet and the dangers. • I'll watch and ask about what you're doing online. • I'll help you follow the rules. • I'll keep you safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I promise to tell you if I feel scared about anything I see on the internet. • I will not tell my real name, school, address, phone number, passwords, or send a picture to anyone, even my best friends, unless I check with my parents first. • I will tell my parents right away if see or read anything on the internet that makes me feel uncomfortable. • I will never go somewhere to meet someone from the internet unless my parents go with me. • I will talk with my parents about internet rules, and I agree to follow them all the time. • I will not download or install anything on the computer without checking with my parents. • I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law. • I will teach my parents what I know about the internet, and will help them know how to have fun and learn things on the internet.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'll talk to you about what you're doing online. If I don't understand how something works, I'll ask you. • I'll find opportunities to use the internet with you (examples: planning family trips and activities). • I'll respect your privacy unless I have reason to believe your life, health, safety, or future is threatened. • I'll set reasonable computer rules and consequences for not following them. I'll discuss both the rules and the consequences with you ahead of time. • If you disagree with the computer rules, I'll listen to your point of view. • I'll post the rules near the computer so everyone can see them and remember what they are. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you ask a question, I'll answer it, and do my best not to act like you're stupid for asking. • I'll follow the rules we agreed upon, and I won't be surprised at the consequences if I don't. • I'll take advantage of those opportunities to spend time with you, rather than complaining about it. • I promise I'll never, ever, under any circumstances, agree to meet an internet contact face to face. If anyone ever offers to meet me, I'll notify a parent or other adult immediately so that it can be reported to law enforcement. • I'll never give out any personal information over the internet without . This includes my name, school, age, grade, phone number, or family credit card numbers. • I'll remember that not everything I read online is true. • I'll use a nym (pseudonym) on chat, discussion boards, and other public places online.

What's the Difference?

	Email	Board	Chat rooms	IM	Blog
What it is	Communicating by sending messages over the internet.	May or may not be web-based. A forum for people to introduce subjects and have other people respond to them. A "thread" is a series of posts (or comments) on a single topic.	A common area on the internet where large groups of strangers can talk.	A system that allows two or more people to chat. In order to IM, one person must know the other's ID, invite the second person to chat, and the second person must accept.	Short for "WebLog." A web-based interactive journal of one's thoughts. Subjects can range from politics to humor to Harry Potter (not to mention LOTS of teen angst). Visitors can post comments and responses.
Private or Public?	Private	Public	Public	Private	Public
Real Time? *	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Some other terms you may hear:	Outlook, Eudora, Outlook Express	Discussion Board, Bulletin Board, Usenet, Forum		IM, AOL Instant Messenger (aka AIM), ICQ, MSN Messenger, Yahoo Messenger	Xanga, Blogspot,
How many participants?	Usually two, but cc and bcc allow others to be brought into the conversation.	Usually a dozen or more.	Many	Two to a half-dozen or so	Usually one blog owner, many commenters. Sometimes, groups will maintain a blog together.
Where can I go to see an example?	hotmail.com Free web-based email provider	http://beliefnet.com/boards/index.asp	http://chat.yahoo.com/	http://aim.com You'll have to download the AIM program and sign up for a free ID.	http://cyncaldad.blogspot.com/ http://geekymom.Blogspot.com/

*"Real Time" means that both (or all) participants have to be at their computers at the same time. Email is not Real Time. If I send you an email, it will wait there until you retrieve it and read it. Chat rooms are Real Time. When I type a message and hit "Enter," the message instantly appears on your screen.

Conversational acronyms

AAMOF	As a matter of fact
AFAIK	As Far As I Know
B4N	Bye For Now
BRB	Be Right Back
BTW	By the way
BYKT	But you knew that
CMIIW	Correct me if I'm wrong
DIKY?	Do I Know You?
HTH	Hope This (or That) Helps
IIRC	If I Remember Correctly or If I Recall Correctly
IMHO	In my humble opinion
IMO	in my opinion
LOL	Laughing Out Loud
OIC	Oh, I see
OTOH	On the other hand
RL	Real Life
ROFL / ROTFL	Rolling on the Floor Laughing
ROTFLOL	Rolling On The Floor Laughing Out Loud
ROTFLMAO	Rolling On The Floor Laughing My A** Off
TMI	Too Much Information
TTFN	Tata for now (also BBFN – Bye Bye for now, or B4N – By for now)
TYVM	Thank you very much
U	You
U2	You Too
U-R	You Are
VBG	Very Big Grin

Drug and Violence references

420	to smoke pot
8 ball	eight ball (an eighth of an ounce)
E or X	ecstasy
METH	crystal methamphetamine
NINE	nine millimeter

Secretive Language

A/S/L	Age/Sex/Location
AITR	adult in the room
ASLMH	Age/Sex/Location/Music/Hobbies
BWO	Black, White or Other
CTRN	(can't talk right now)
F2F	Face To Face
KPC	Keeping Parents Clueless
POS	Parents Over Shoulder

Emoticons

:-)	Smile
;-)	Wink
:-(Frown
:'-(Crying
:'-)	Happy and crying
:-o	Surprised
:-/	Skeptical
:-*	Kiss
:-}	Grin
:-&	Tongue tied
:-\	Undecided
:-D	Laughing
{}	Hug
:-P	Nyah!

Online Resources

<http://getnetwise.org>

<http://www.cyberangels.org>

<http://www.cybertipline.org>

<http://www.wikipedia.com>

<http://www.safekids.com>

<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm>

<http://www.ou.edu/oupd/inetmenu.htm>

<http://www.weblogawards.org>

General Computer Rules

The Internet is not a bad influence any more than your community is a bad influence. In fact, the Internet is its own type of community. There are community rules and standards, places and people that are safe to be around, and people and places that are not as safe.

1. Keep the computer in a family area, not a child's bedroom.
2. Knowledge is power. Learn about the internet and know what your kids are doing on it. Teach your younger children about the dangers; if your older kids know more than you do, let them teach you.
3. Communicate. Talk to your child about what she's doing online. Be a part of her online experience. Ask if she has a blog, if she chats, and where her friends hang out on the Internet. Go there and find out what is appealing about it.
4. Respect his privacy ... but with limits. Your child's privacy is important, but it's not the most important thing. Let him know you'll respect his privacy unless you believe something greater is at stake, such as his life, safety, health, or education.
5. Review what is on your child's computer. Tell him you will be doing it, and tell him why. If you find something that you believe is inappropriate, talk to him about it.
6. Let them know they can come to you if something that happens on the Internet is uncomfortable for them.
7. If you or your children feel threatened by something online, don't ignore it. Your rights are the same online as they are in real life.
8. Use security software, but don't depend on it. Programs are available to detect viruses, screen for adult content, and filter out inappropriate material, but it has its weaknesses. Nothing trumps "POS".
9. If your child receives sexual material, (especially material involving children) or is solicited sexually, turn off your computer immediately to preserve any evidence that may be on it. Immediately contact the FBI (www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-843-5678).
10. Last of all, don't freak out. Internet access is as important to your children now as library access was when we were their age. During their careers, computer and Internet literacy will not be a plus in their job search; it will be a requirement.

Danger Signs

1. Spending lots of time on the computer, especially at night; secrecy about online activities; closing a screen or program when an adult walks into the room.
2. Becoming withdrawn from the family (This one can be tricky. Adolescence is a time for breaking away from the family, so a certain amount of withdrawal is normal.)
3. Adult material on your child's computer or on diskettes your child uses. Predators often use sexual images and stories to lower a potential victim's inhibitions. Sexual images involving children are often used to convince children that sex between adults and children is normal.
4. Phone calls to or from people you don't know, adults or teens., especially at late hours. Making long distance calls to numbers you don't recognize. (Remember that your cell phone bill includes every number called from every phone, as well as every number that called your family's phones.). Some offenders have gone as far as establishing toll-free numbers that kids can use to call them, then using caller ID to call them back.
5. Receiving gifts or photos from people you don't know. Predators often use gifts to create a sense of intimacy between themselves and their victims, and to test the victim's promise of secrecy.