

Parental guide for online children safety

Kids safe online



Some parents like to give their children as much freedom as possible; encouraging them to be responsible for their own decisions and the consequences of their actions. Based on this, many parents decide to provide access to computer from an early age. Before taking this important decision, parents should also be aware of the negative impact Internet has over their children and all the dangers children are facing online.

Online risks

It is important to note the types of dangers that children may be susceptible to on the Internet.

- ✘ First of all, the most important danger is the **inappropriate content** available on the Internet. There is a lot of content on the Web that includes: exposure to nudity or other explicit material; hate groups, racist web sites, information on cult groups; graphic violence, promotional material about tobacco, alcohol or drugs, profanity or even recipes for making bombs or other explosives.
- ✘ Considering that the Internet is full of gambling sites and keeping in mind that most online gambling sites require a person to use a credit card, you can imagine that this poses a potential threat to the financial well being of the family as well. So, **gambling and other unsuitable behavior** is also an important risk children face online.
- ✘ By using **file sharing** over the Internet, children are exposed to the risk of downloading illegal or obscene material. This is why peer to peer applications must be forbidden for children.
- ✘ **Offensive communication** (through email, chat rooms, and instant messages) is also a considerable risk children are facing online.

Tips for Protecting Your Child Online

In order to make our everyday life safer we create rules and do our best to follow them. In the same way rules for the online world can and must be created. In order to avoid the online threats that children face on the Internet parents should follow some simple but very effective rules.

- ✓ Do not place the computer directly in the child room. Keep it in a visible place in the house. This way you can walk by, check what is on the screen and even ask questions. If you see that your child quickly closes the screen when you are around, this is a red flag that needs further investigations.
- ✓ Spend as much time as possible with your children on the computer / Internet. Show them that you are interested about their online friends just like you know their real life friends, play together and let them show you what new things they have learned or the things they like. This way you will help them identify inappropriate communications.
- ✓ According the children age, schedule computer / Internet use sessions and even set limit traffic. This way you can stop them downloading non-licensed software or adult movies and control time spending on chat rooms.
- ✓ Allow access only to certain websites previously agreed together with your children. You can check with the children's teachers for suggested Web sites and for recommendations for good resources online.
- ✓ Educate your kids to:
 - always use a nickname instead of real name;
 - never give out personal information (name, address, age, telephone number, password, credit card number, and so on) in chat rooms and email
 - always inform you if they receive any frightening or upsetting communication
 - never exchange photographs over the Internet
 - never agree to meet anyone in person that you met in a chat room.

The list of tips/advice about parental control can continue, but in the end, it is up to you to take an active role in your child's online activity. Remember that beside the informative and educational role that Internet has, it is also a terrible substitute for a babysitter.

Get your copy of Application Blocker Pro today and ensure that the Internet is a safe playground for your child. Get your free trial copy of Application Blocker Pro today!