

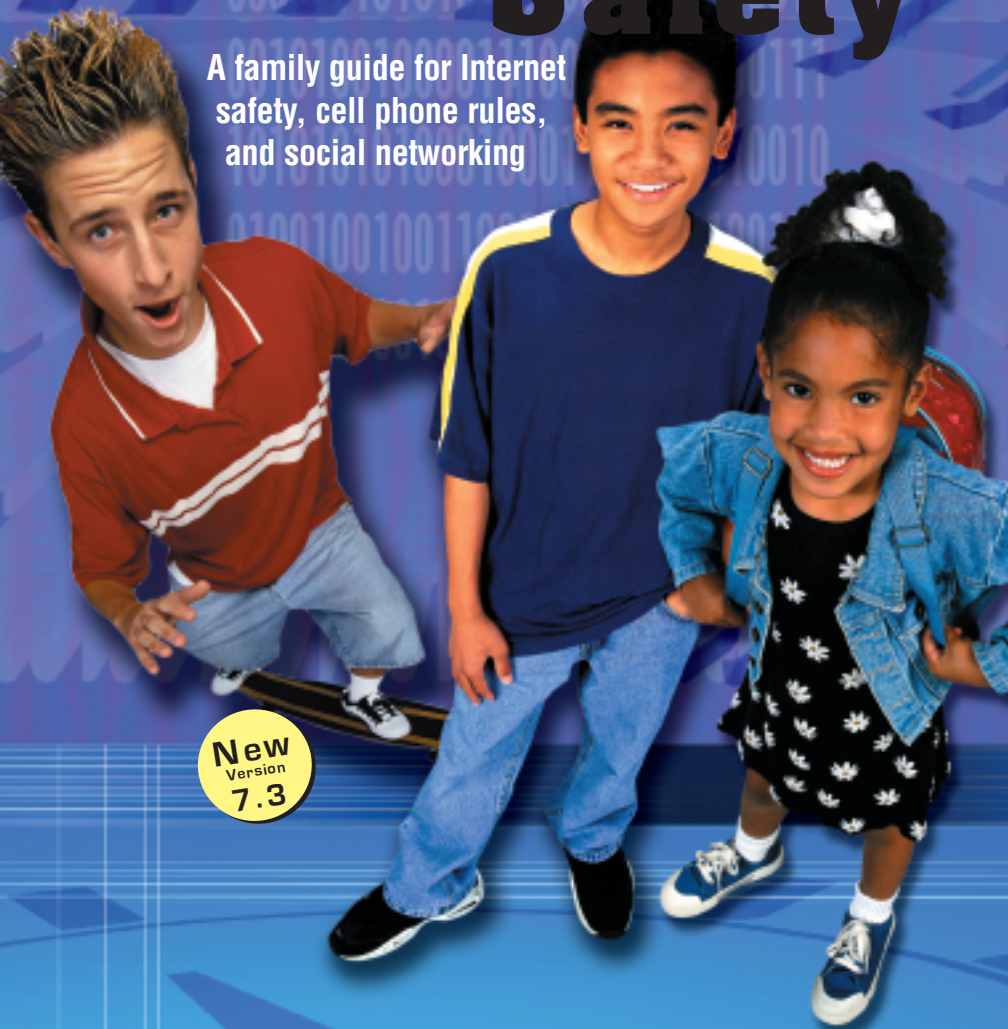


TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

McGruff[®]

Internet Safety

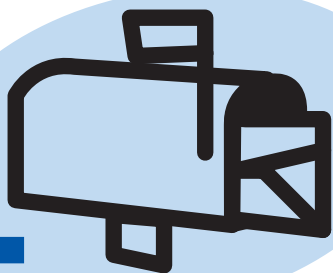
A family guide for Internet
safety, cell phone rules,
and social networking



New
Version
7.3

You've Got

MAIL



McGruff's® Internet Safety Kit

A Fun Family Travel Guide for Internet Safety

Dear Parents,

These are exciting times to raise a family. Computer technology has opened up a wealth of opportunities that offer challenges, education and just plain fun. The Internet is one terrific way to tap into a whole new world of knowledge that can enhance school performance and improve a child's communication skills.

But just like exploring any new territory, your children need your guidance to learn the "rules of the road." This positive, interactive guide will help you and your child navigate the Internet with their safety in mind. When you read it together, you'll find there's helpful information for every child, from pre-school age to teen. There are rules to clip out and post next to your family computer and games your children can play while they're learning to be safe.

It has recently been updated to include guidance for use of social networking sites.

Have fun discovering all you can about this new adventure in learning, and help me "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" online!

Sincerely,
McGruff the Crime Dog®



Internet

Info

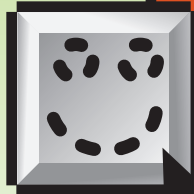
Info Parents Need to Know to be Web Savvy:

1. *Keep the computer in a family room, kitchen, or another area where you can monitor its use.*
2. *Limit your child's time online, just like you do their television viewing. They need a balance of activities in their lives.*
3. *Take time to teach your children how to use the computer responsibly.*
4. *After deciding on rules for using the Internet, discuss them with your children. Post them near the computer as a reminder.*
5. *Ask about your child's online friends, so you know with whom they are communicating.*
6. *Discuss the difference between advertising and educational information. Explain by showing examples of each.*
7. *Many Internet providers offer parental controls with their service. Use them to keep children away from undesirable sites.*
8. *Report anything that gets by parental controls and let your Internet service provider know what you expect to keep kids safe.*
9. *Learn all you can about Internet security software that blocks and filters undesirable information.*
10. *Check out our Web site www.mcgruff-safe-kids.com/internetsafety for links to online safety resources.*

Fun Facts

In 1944 computers measured 51' long by 8' high. They had less memory and speed than the computer on your desk today!*

*The history of computers can be found on the Internet by typing *computer history* into your search engine.



Questions that Families can Discuss Together

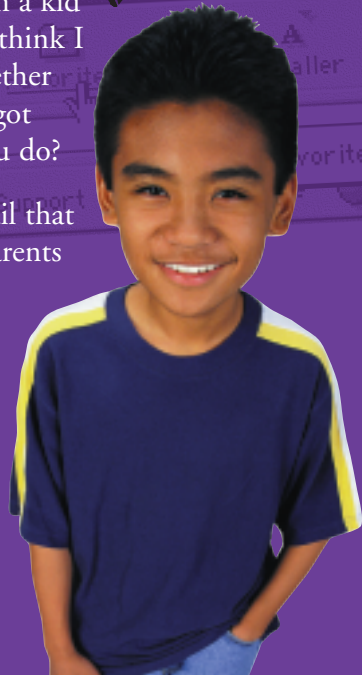
Unfortunately, material you might find objectionable is quite easy to access on the Internet. During research for this kit, we discovered that entering an innocent search for “Little Women,” a book by Louisa May Alcott, took us to some areas that would be inappropriate for children.

Role playing is a good way to teach kids how to react in potentially harmful situations. Ask your children the following questions and listen to their responses.

My whole family went over the web rules together. Now, we all enjoy surfing the web even more.

what if - You were talking online with your friend, and you got a message from a kid who says, “hey, what’s your name and age? I think I know you. It would be really cool to get together at your house or mine, but I forgot your address.” What would you do?

what if - You got an e-mail that said “I’m new here, and my parents said I could invite a bunch of kids over for a pizza and video game party tomorrow after school. They said we should all meet at the park down the street about 4:00. Don’t tell your parents. They might say no!” What would you do?



what if...

Internet

Fun Sheet

with Scruff®

Games, Tips, Jokes, Mazes and More



AWESOME

Web Sites

Be sure to bookmark your favorite Web sites for quicker retrieval.

Below are two to get you started:

www.mcgruff.org

My Cyber Pals

Make a list of all your friends' screen names and post it near your computer.

Tear off and take to school with you

Jokes

Q: What did one mouse say to the other mouse?

A: I get a click out of you.

Q: Who do you find on the Disneyworld website?

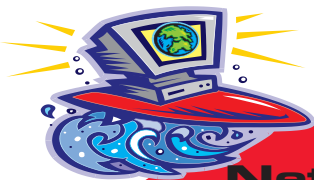
A: Mick e-mouse

Q: Why did the chicken cross the web?

A: To get to the other site.

Q: How do animal lovers send e-mails?

A: On the Inter-pet.



Netiquette

(how to mind your manners while you're surfing)

- Treat other people in cyberspace the way you would like to be treated.

You would not want to be the subject of rumors or gossip, nor would you want to receive messages that make you feel scared or uncomfortable, so don't send those kind of messages yourself.

- **DON'T YELL!** Writing in all CAPS is the same as shouting in person.

HEY KIDS!

Race a friend to see who can connect the correct mouse to Scruff's computer.

M C G R U F F W W C R S
 I T E R N F N D B O B O
 S N A C U E R P T M R F
 A R T R E O T I L E O T
 R D C E W S N S O L W W
 E S B S R O U L M I S A
 T M S R M N E O I N E R
 U A A U L W E F M N R E
 P I W I R D C T D B E A
 M S L A L I N K M O F T
 O I S T E R K S F W W W
 C Y B E R S P A C E B R

WordFinder

MCGRUFF	EMAIL	SCRUFF
COMPUTER	PASSWORD	INTERNET
SOFTWARE	ONLINE	WWW
MOUSE	MONITOR	CYBERSPACE
	LINK	BROWSER

Pick a mouse to race.



Which will win?



Be the first to find Scruff!

Emoticons

Hey kids, here are some fun symbols you can create from your keyboard while you are writing your friends on line. Can you find all of the faces that we have hidden in this booklet?

:-) are sideways smiles :-> is a wink :-> is a wink :-> is a wink @----- is a cyber rose

You did it!
 Congratulations.



HEALTHY HABITS



Between You and Your Computer.

- To avoid eye strain, use the same amount of lighting you use when reading a book.



- The monitor should be 18" to 30" away. The top of the monitor should be at or just below your eyes.



- Keep elbows and forearms as parallel to the floor as possible. Use a wrist pad for comfort.



- Use a height-adjustable chair with good lower back support. Keep feet firmly planted on the floor.



- Get up and stretch regularly -- at least five minutes every hour.



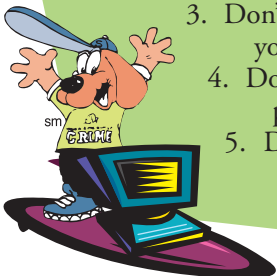
For additional information on ergonomics and computer guidelines for children, search for key words: *computer ergonomics*.

This information derives from Cornell University Research as seen on *THE TODAY SHOW*. Reference: "Ergonomic Guidelines for Computer Use by Children"

Safer Travel on the Internet

For safe travel on the Internet, remember:

1. Don't give anyone your password, name, address, the name of your school or any information about your family.
2. Don't talk to strangers on the Internet or agree to meet anyone in person that you've met online.
3. Don't fill in a profile about yourself that asks for your name and address.
4. Don't visit a chat room without your parent's permission.
5. Don't stay online if you see something you think your parents wouldn't like.



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what kids need their parents to know:



Internet Predators

“Don’t talk to strangers” applies in the cyber-world just as in the real world, but can be more difficult to define. Online predators take advantage of the anonymity of the Internet to contact vulnerable children and teens through chat rooms, instant messaging, e-mail, peer support forums, and social networking sites. The best way to protect your children is through prevention. Use parental control software, monitor your children’s Internet use, and talk to them about potential online dangers. Teach your children not to respond to e-mails or instant messages from strangers, and to report to you any communication that makes them feel threatened or uncomfortable. They should never reveal personal information over the Internet, and should tell you when they are asked to do so. And they should never agree to meet in person anyone they’ve met online. For further information, including how to tell if your child is the target of an online predator, see www.fbi.gov and www.microsoft.com/protect.

Cyber-Bullying

Just as in real life, online communication should be conducted with respect and consideration of other’s feelings. Encourage your children to report to you any time they feel threatened or have concerns about e-mails or instant messages they’re receiving. Bullies should be blocked from your child’s e-mail and deleted from their instant message list.

**DID
YOU
KNOW**

The Internet was designed as a project to provide the U.S. military with guaranteed communication in the event of a nuclear strike. Wow! Look at what the Internet has become.*

*Type *Internet history* into your search engine for more historical facts like this about the Internet.

Rules for



Be Cool, Be Safe and Most of All Have Fun!

It's cool to talk with other kids and visit interesting sites on the Internet, but here are some things you should know to keep you safe while you're having fun.

1. *Remember never to give out personal information on the Internet. Don't share your real name, phone number, address, password, where you live, where you go to school or anything about your family.*
2. *It's best not to talk to strangers -- just like when you're at the park or in a store. Someone may pretend to be someone he or she is not.*
3. *Don't agree to meet anyone you've talked to online. Tell your parents if an online friend wants to get together, so your parents know all about it.*
4. *If you fill out a personal profile that other kids can read online, don't write anything that says too much about you. You may think only your friends can see it, but strangers can find out about you, too.*
5. *Don't write back to flames (people who use bad language or want to get into an argument online.)*
6. *Log off immediately if you see or read something that upsets you. Tell your parents or a teacher if something like that happens.*
7. *Protect your password. No one should ever ask you for it for any reason.*
8. *Don't buy anything over the Internet without your parent's approval. Don't give out a credit card number without your parent's knowledge.*
9. *Never send pictures over the Internet unless your parents know about it.*
10. *Ask your parent's permission to visit a chat room.*



Cell Phone

Savvy

Many new cell phones now operate like minicomputers with features that allow the sharing of pictures and text messages, access to email and social networks, and GPS technology. With such great technology at our fingertips, it is important to remember that the same rules about not sharing personal information with others still apply.

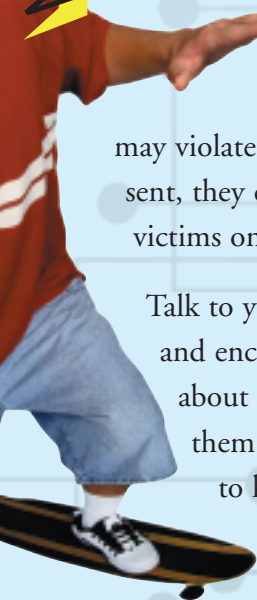


A dangerous new practice can have serious legal and psychological consequences for your children. It's called "sexting"

— the sharing of suggestive photos and/or text messages, usually by cell phone or the Internet, but it can occur even through gaming devices such as X-Box and Wii. Depending on the age of the photo subject and the age of the person who transmits the image, criminal child pornography charges can apply and, if the image crosses state lines, the transmission may violate federal child pornography laws. Once the photos are sent, they can be used to bully, harass, intimidate, or embarrass victims online or via mobile devices.

Dudes!
I love to surf the web
but like when I am
skate boarding, I steer
clear of danger.

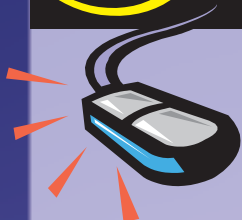
Talk to your kids about the consequences of these activities, and encourage them to tell you or another trusted adult about any photos or text messages they receive that make them uncomfortable. Remind them that good friends try to keep each other safe. You can get valuable tips for you and your children at www.ncpc.org. Search the keyword "sexting" for free information.



Especially for Teens



Social Network Information and Safety Tips



Online social networking sites like **Facebook** and **MySpace** are hugely popular with teens, and others are developing all the time. These Internet sites allow you to communicate with the world in fun and interesting ways.

Here are some things to remember about these Web gathering sites:

Be careful what you share! Use only your first name or a nickname, and be wary of posting any other personal information, including your address, school, hometown, or e-mail address. These sites are public spaces, everything you post there can be seen by the online world.

What you share on a social networking site should be considered to be a **permanent** display, whether that be a photo, a comment about somebody, your thoughts, your diary or blog, or videos. Be aware that teachers, parents, college admissions personnel and potential employers may look at your profile on these sites as part of their background checks.

These sites are a great way to connect with your friends, but be aware that online predators have access to them too.

Parents:

Periodically have your teen give you a tour of their postings, and don't hesitate to help them to make appropriate postings. Make sure your teen is abiding by the rules you've set for Internet use; if he or she fails to do so, you can limit access to the computer, or contact the social Web site and ask them to remove your child's page.