



Crime Prevention Tips

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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Community
Resource
Unit

Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity,
professionalism and community spirit.

Internet Safety for Kids

The Internet can be a wonderful tool for children and youth. But the internet and websites can also be dangerous. Here are some things families can do to encourage today's young people to be computer safe.

Agree on a list of rules and post them on your computer: The rules should cover how long children can spend on the internet and how late they can "surf" the web. Have everyone in the household sign an internet pledge. (See www.safekids.com/kidsrules.htm).

Talk to your kids: Keep the lines of communication open. If a child tells you about an upsetting event experienced online, don't blame them. Your reaction could affect how much they will share with you in the future.

As a general rule, children should never plan to meet anybody in person whom they have encountered online: Explain that people they meet online may not be who they say they are and could be dangerous.

Children should never give out personal information over the internet: They should use an online name (not their real name) and never reveal their address, telephone number, or any identifying information.

No pictures, letters, or telephone calls should be exchanged: Monitor such communications.

If online acquaintances send your children an e-mail that makes them uncomfortable or that they know is obscene: they should inform you at once. The same applies to information they see on message boards or chat rooms.

Consider using a family-safe or child safe search engine or a filter, blocking, or ratings system: Some services have a "kids only" section so you can be sure the children won't have access to questionable material, but not all public accessible computers are filtered for age appropriateness.

Encourage your children: Let them know that you want to check out new and interesting sites with them. Establish explicit rules for your children and hopefully the internet will be a fun, educational, but most importantly, a safe place for kids.

If you have any questions, contact Deputy Amir Stephen at (720) 874-3752, e-mail astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us, or contact Deputy Brian McKnight at (720) 874-3750, e-mail bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us.

**To report a crime, call the
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at
(303)-795-4711 or 911 for emergencies**