The 10 Commandments of Internet Smarts

If you haven't done so already, it's a good idea to talk with your parents about setting up rules for going online. The following list of safety tips can be a good place to start.

1. *Always* ask your parents before giving out personal information online. This includes your real name, e-mail address, age, mailing address, telephone number, parents' place of work, and the name of your school.

2. *Never* send a picture of yourself to anyone you've met online without first checking whether it's okay with your parents.

3. Do not give out your Internet or e-mail passwords to *anyone* besides your parents (*not even* to your best friend).

4. Share with your parents who your online friends are. They should get to know them like they get to know all your other friends.

5. *Never* agree to meet face to face with someone you know only over the Internet without one of your parents being present.

6. Do not respond to messages that are mean or that make you feel uncomfortable in any way. If you receive or read one of these messages, tell your parents right away, so that they can notify your Internet service provider.

7. Tell your parents immediately if you come across *anything* over the Net that makes you feel uncomfortable.

8. When doing research or getting information online, make sure it's from a site that your parents, teachers, or librarian approve. Remember: anyone can post anything on a website. Using trusted sources means you're more likely to get correct info.

9. *Always* follow the rules your parents establish for the amount of time you are allowed to spend on the computer and the use of chatroom, e-mail, web-surfing, and games.

10. Be a good online neighbor, and never do anything that would hurt someone. Practice respect of others, whether online or off.

I promise to follow the 10 commandments of Internet smarts.

Signed, _____

My Friend

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