

From Internet Dangers

<http://www.internetdangers.com/>

The 10 Dangers - Quick Tips

The following is a list of the main threats that you should watch for anytime your children go on to the Internet or use a mobile phone:

1. **Offensive material** - install parental control software
2. **Dangerous strangers** - advise your children to be suspicious about everyone they come into contact with on the Internet and consider installing parental control software to monitor their chat room conversations
3. **Child pornography** - tell your children to never send a photograph of themselves to anyone over the Internet or via a mobile phone
4. **Mobile phone risks** - tell your children to be careful who they give their phone number out to and to never lend their phones to anyone
5. **Exploitation and scams** - tell your children to be suspicious and always check with you about emails and websites offering things that appear too good to be true
6. **Text and email bullying** - advise your children to let you know straightaway about anything they receive that upsets them
7. **Spam, viruses, hackers, spyware and other computer problems** - install Internet security software
8. **Internet addiction** - keep a very close eye on how much time your children spend on the Internet
9. **Breaking the law** - tell your children to be careful about what they download from the Internet and what they say when they post messages
10. **Invasions of privacy** - tell your children to be very careful about the information they give about themselves to others on the Internet

From Cybersafetynet.com

<http://www.cybersafetynet.com/predators.html>

How Do Online Predators Target Children?

Online predators need information to target your child. They read the information your children posts about their hobbies, friends and social life. Many children's MySpace.com pages are filled with useful bits of information for the online predator. During the conversation predators ask questions that reveal children's feelings about school and their home life. Angry or lonely feelings allow a online predator to fill a child's need

How Can We Protect Our Children From Online Predators?

One of the first steps to protect your children from online predators is to know where your child is going online and what they are doing there. Parental control software can block undesirable websites such as MySpace.com as well as log all online conversations. Research and test several programs for the level of security and flexibility that you desire for your family. Most parental control programs have at least a 15-day free trial period. **A word of caution... after you have chosen parental control software that will block and monitor your child's activity online, discuss the reasons why you have these safeguards on your computer.**

More information about Internet safety can be found on the Jonesville Middle School website (<http://www.leectysch.com/JM/Default.htm>) by clicking on the Library link. Also available on the Library page are several research links, including Online World Book Encyclopedia. For home access to World Book (<http://worldbookonline.com>), see the newsletter enclosed with your child's progress report.