Surf on the safe side

The Internet is jam-packed with great places to get and share interesting information. It's also a place to chat with your BFF or family.

The Internet can be a safe place. But it can be unsafe if you don't follow some rules.

There are some people out there who pretend to be your friend. They aren't!

Here are some of the rules to keep you safe.

• Pick a gender-neutral screen name or nickname. That means a name that could be either a girl's or boy's name.

• Do not open e-mail that is spam or from strangers. Do not respond to sexual e-mails.

• Ask your parents about what to include in your personal profile. Restrict access to your profile to those on your contact list.

• Do not add people to your contact list that you don't know in person.

• Never arrange a F2F meeting with someone you've met online without permission from your parents.

• IM only with people you know in person. Block an IM from someone you don't know.

• Think before you type. Do you want everyone to see what you are writing? Is it hurtful or rude?

• If you receive hurtful, rude or threatening messages, tell your parents.

• Do not post photos online without your parent's approval. Post only to private sites.

• Don't post photos of your friends without permission from their parents.

• Turn off your web cam when you are not using it.

• Tell your parents if you encounter lewd or obscene material. They can report it to cybertipline.com.

• Always act as if 9.

Just remember to surf on the safe side! T@YL. ADBB.

SAFE KID SURVIVORS

Chat slang

BFF: Best friend forever
IM: Instant Message
T@YL: Talk at you later
E123: Easy as 1, 2, 3
GBG: Great big grin
NKT: Nice to know

F2F: Face to face
9: Parent is watching
ADBB: All done. Bye bye
EAK: Eating at keyboard
JM2C: Just my 2 cents

Word Scramble

TTEERNNI
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FASE
_ _ _ _

ALTUD
_ _ _ _ _

OPHTO
_ _ _ _ _

FAMRONITION
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

THAC
_ _ _ _

For the Kid in You

Newspaper in Education activity

1. Count the number of Internet sites that are listed in your newspaper. Don't forget to look at ads while you are counting.

2. Does your newspaper have a web site? If so, check it out.

3. Compile a list of chat slang you and your friends like to use. Keep it clean!