

The Internet can be a great place to connect with friends, do research, play games and explore hobbies and interests. Like the physical world, you should take steps to play safe. Protect yourself online by following a few simple rules:

- Discuss rules for Internet use with your parent(s)/guardian(s). Together you can set the time of day, the length of time online and what areas you can visit. Do not break these rules - they are for your safety.
- Never use your real name. Use a nickname that does not attract inappropriate attention.
- Never talk to strangers online.
- Do not give out personal information such as address, phone number, and where you attend school.
- Never share your password with anyone other than your parent/guardian.
- Tell your parent/guardian if you come across any information that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Do not send pictures or anything else to someone without checking with your parent/guardian.
- Never agree to meet anyone you have become friends with online. Tell your parent/guardian and only go if they agree to the meeting. Be sure to meet in a public place and bring your parent/guardian along.
- Ignore messages that are mean or make you feel uncomfortable. Tell your parent/guardian so they take steps to protect you.
- Never download or install software without your parent/guardian present.
- Do not accept email, files, links, or URLs from people you don't know.
- Never do anything that hurts others or is against the law. Behave online as you behave in person
- Introduce your online friends to your parent/guardian just as you would introduce your real friends.
- Talk to your parents about how to learn and have fun online.

**Your best weapon is your brain. Use common sense, imagination, and good judgment.**