

**The Internet offers a world of opportunity** for your children to learn and to enjoy. Just a few short years ago, no one would have imagined the exciting opportunities the Internet would create.

**But, the Internet also poses special dangers for your kids.** Evil people can easily manipulate it – in frightening ways.

**That's why Concerned Women for America (CWA) suggests the following 14 safety tips.** They'll help you take advantage of the benefits the Internet offers your children.

1. **Keep the computer in a common area**, such as the family room or kitchen.

2. **Use a software filtering system** or subscribe to an Internet service provider (ISP) that offers filtering from its mainframe computer.

3. **Show your children what to do if they accidentally stumble onto a bad site.** Teach them how to escape by using the "Back" button on the Web browser or the "Home" key, which will return them to the computer's default home page. If all else fails, turn off the computer.

4. **Set up ground rules for use of the computer and stick to them.** Let your children know the consequences of misuse and then follow through.

5. **Use filtering software that keeps a log of all the sites your family visits.**

6. **Don't use the computer as a babysitter.** Set time limits on Internet usage, and discourage late-night use.

7. **Don't talk to strangers;** it's a valid rule on the streets and on the Internet. The Internet hides the true identity of users, so there's no way to know if people are who they say they are.

8. **Guard your family's privacy** by never giving out your name, address, or telephone number (except, of course, when doing something like placing an order with an established retailer).

9. **Don't allow children to reveal too much about themselves** in the "personal profile" sections that some Internet companies provide. Pedophiles prey on this information. Parents should become familiar with new rules for Web site operators, established by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), effective April 2000, restricts how Web site operators may collect and use personal information from children under age 13. The rules spell out when and how these operators must seek parental consent and what responsibilities they have to protect your child's privacy and safety online. For more information, see the FTC's article "**How to Protect Kids' Privacy Online**" at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) ("For Consumers" section; click on "Ecommerce & the Internet.")

10. **Supervise your child's chat room activity.** Pedophiles join chat rooms, especially ones where children gather.

11. **Check the history files regularly and perhaps even read your child's email** if you have reason to suspect a problem.

12. **Help children to set up "bookmarks"** to enable easy access to positive, fun and educational sites.

13. **Report incidents of hard-core porn spam and pornographic Web sites** at [www.obscuritycrimes.org](http://www.obscuritycrimes.org). Veteran law enforcement officers review these reports and forward those that meet the definition of obscenity to the Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and to the U.S. Attorney for the district from which the complaint originated.

14. **Call, write and e-mail the Attorney General and demand that the Department of Justice vigorously enforce the federal obscenity laws.**

Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
(202) 353-1555  
[AskDOJ@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskDOJ@usdoj.gov)



**Additional resources:**

Jan LaRue's book, co-authored with Frank York, is an excellent guide with even more practical tips to help you. Many of the tips in this brochure came from her book, **Protecting Your Child in an X-Rated World: What You Need to Know to Make a Difference.**

To obtain your copy, call CWA toll-free at 1-800-458-8797 or click the "Shop" button online at CWA's web site, [www.cwfa.org](http://www.cwfa.org).

**Plus, ask us about these other valuable, free CWA resources,** available on our Web site:

- Hard-Core Harm: Why You Can't Be Soft on Porn
- The Porn Ring Around Corporate White Collars: Getting Filthy Rich
- How to Keep Pornographic "Signal Bleed" Out of Your Home
- Shock Jocks and Others 'Fear' FCC Crackdown

For additional copies of this brochure or for more information about Concerned Women for America, please contact:

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**The mission of CWA** is to protect and promote Biblical values among all citizens - first through prayer, then education, and finally by influencing our society - thereby reversing the decline in moral values in our nation.

**The vision of CWA** is for women and like-minded men, from all walks of life, to come together and restore the family to its traditional purpose and thereby allow each member of the family to realize their God-given potential and be more responsible citizens.



**Concerned Women for America**  
is a national non-profit (c)(3) organization.

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## ***14 Ways You Can Protect Your Children Online***



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