THE DIGITAL UNIVERSE OF YOUR CHILDREN
ONLINE TIPS FOR PARENTS

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Any information we put online will remain there forever, for anyone to see - it's almost impossible to delete! This means it's important to thoroughly consider what you and your children should reveal about yourselves on the web. You should teach your children which pieces of information should be private and also help them to understand in which situations they should share private details and when they shouldn't give anything away at all.

1 DISCLOSING IDENTITY

Your child's name, national identification number, address and phone number are very valuable for online predators and criminals. Advise your children only to give out such information as their phone number and address to trusted friends. This will, to some extent, protect them from becoming the victim of an online predator and limit the possibility of becoming a victim of cyberbullying.

2 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ON WHEREABOUTS

Talk to your children at an appropriate age and time about avoiding giving away information about their location. This precaution goes far beyond children not revealing their address, but also involves concealing details such as where they go to school or where they play sports. It is also important to warn them not to talk about any of their travel plans, or when the home will be left unattended. Such information is the ultimate gift for thieves!

3 LOCATION BASED SERVICES

A Location Based Service (LBS) uses information on the geographical position of a mobile device to offer information and entertainment services related to the user's location. It is important to check all the active applications on your child's mobile phone and decide if they need to be disabled or not.

4 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Inform your child that any kind of financial information such as bank account numbers should never be displayed online.

5 PASSWORDS

Warn your children that by sharing their passwords with others it can give people access to their account. Even with good friends, this is best avoided.

6 SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MESSAGES, PHOTOS OR VIDEOS

We all know that children grow up quickly and this includes exploring their sexuality, even before we, as parents are ready for it. Strongly discourage your children from creating and sharing sexually explicit photos, videos or messages of themselves (or others) as these can easily appear on the internet for anyone to see. In addition to risking their reputation and friendships, they could be breaking the law if they create, forward, or even save this kind of message or image.

7 EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS AND HURTFUL OR INSULTING COMMENTS

Encourage your children to think before they post things online. The online behaviour of people, including the things they post, will determine their online reputation. Remember, what they post online now will remain there forever. To avoid future disappointments (university, college and jobs), it's best to maintain a positive reputation.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Find out more from the Insafe network:
www.saferinternet.org

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