

Terminology You Need To Know

Social Networking: sites that help people discover new friends or colleagues by illuminating shared interests, related skills, or a common geographic location.

Spam: an inappropriate attempt to use email, or another networked communications facility to send the same message to numerous people who didn't ask for it.

Phishing: the act of tricking someone into giving them confidential information or tricking them into doing something that they normally wouldn't do.

CyberBullying: term used to refer to bullying and harassment by use of electronic devices through means of e-mail, instant messaging, text messages, blogs, mobile phones, pagers, and websites.

Emoticons: images (icons) which allow participants to express their opinions or moods visually.

Instant Message: technology that allows two people to chat electronically in real time, usually associated with chatrooms on the Internet.

Text Message: technology that allows two people to chat electronically in real time usually associated with cell phones.

Internet Resources

Littleton Public Schools webpage (go to the "For Parents" tab and look for CyberSafety on the left)

www.littletonpublicschools.net



<http://www.safe2tell.org/>

Top Rated Home Internet Filter Packages

NetNanny Parental Controls
www.netnanny.com

CYBERSitter
www.cybersitter.com

CyberPatrol
www.cyberpatrol.com

No product can substitute for active parenting



Littleton Public
Schools

An Elementary Parent's Guide to Child Safety and the Internet



Littleton Public Schools
Information and Technology
Services

Keeping Kids Safe Online

The three main risks associated with connected technology are:

1. Inappropriate Contact—Teach kids how to recognize and protect themselves against contact with cyber-bullies, hackers, phishers, and predators. People aren't always who they say they are. Teach kids to keep away from Internet strangers: *the Internet is a place to enhance existing relationships, not a place to meet new people.*

2. Inappropriate Content—This includes both content that is viewed by and content that is uploaded by kids. Help kids understand that *the Internet is forever*: Everything they post online is tracked and stored and will follow them to future job interviews and college entrance interviews.

3. Inappropriate Conduct—Because the web environment can feel anonymous, some youth become uninhibited. Teach kids that the Internet is a public forum: anonymity is a myth. *Help them be the good person online that they are when they're off line.*

Once children understand these risks, three simple guidelines will help parents provide a safe and healthy experience online.

Keep Current With Technology—You don't have to be an expert, but a little understanding goes a long way toward keeping your child safe online. Get basic technical training and learn about new products as they're released.

Keep Communicating With Your Child about everything they experience on the Internet. Know their lingo, and ask when you don't understand something. Work to keep communication lines open.

Keep Checking Your Child's Internet Activity. Know where they go online. Let them know that you'll keep checking because you want them to understand that the Internet is a public forum and never truly private.

Safety Tips

- Place the computer in a visible area, not in the child's bedroom.
- Use gender-neutral screen names.
- Talk to children about Internet safety and participate with them online.
- Children shouldn't believe anything said to them over the Net from an unknown source.
- Tell children they do not have to respond to messages sent to them, whether by email or instant message.
- Children should never give out personal information, screen names, passwords or credit card information.
- Use a good virus detection program.
- Don't rely only on filtering software to supervise your children's computer usage, nothing beats parental supervision.
- Know your children are communicating online. Get to know their online friends just as you would their other friends.
- Promote an environment where your children can talk openly with you.

Talking like your children ... Common Chat/Text Abbreviations (there are MANY more..ask your kids)

ABBREVIATION	MEANING
AFK	Away from keyboard
A/S/L	Age/sex/location?
BBL	Be back later
CYO	See you online
DTRT	Do the right thing
EG	Evil grin
IMHO	In my humble opinion
JK or j/k	Just kidding
LOL	Laughing out loud
PAW	Parents are watching
POS	Parents over shoulder
ROTFL	Rolling on the floor laughing
RU/18	Are you over 18?
WTGP?	Want to go private?

Frequently Asked Questions

Should my child have an email account?

That is strictly a parental decision. If you decide to let your child have an email account we encourage you to assist them in selecting an appropriate name for the account or share your username and login. Make sure you have their password so you may check on their email activity.

What is MySpace and can I find out if my child has a MySpace account?

Here's how:

1. Go to www.yahoo.com and sign up for an email account. Use a false name and birth date.
2. Go to www.MySpace.com and sign up, giving your newly created Yahoo account as your contact information.
3. On the MySpace toolbar, click on Browse, and search by age, gender, ethnicity, or geography.

Is there a good Internet filter I can load on my computer?

There are a variety of good packages you can purchase that provide filtering of your internet connection. Be aware that most search engines (such as Google) also have the ability to be put in a "Safe" mode so children cannot get to inappropriate sites through the search engine.

My child does not go to chat rooms. Can I assume that he/she is safe?

NO...just because your child is not in a chat room does not mean he/she may not be at risk. Some predators are now using the online gaming sites (computer, Xbox 360, etc.) to try and make contact with children. Make sure your kids know what information is safe and not safe to relay over the internet.

What is the Littleton Public Schools policy on cell phones at school?

Cell phone usage in the buildings of LPS is handled at the school site. Consult the student handbook of your child's building for details