

A Parent's Guide to Safety on the Internet

Children's Internet Use Policy

At Toronto Public Library we try to give you information in many different forms. The Internet is a good way to get information from places in your own community and from places all over the world. How you use the Internet is up to you and your parents or guardians.

The Internet is not controlled by anyone. This means that anyone in the world could put information on an Internet site. The Internet contains lots of great information and fun stuff, but it also contains information that may not be true or may make you uncomfortable. Be careful when you use the Internet, because it is sometimes possible for other people to get information about you and what you are doing on the Internet.

Toronto Public Library has a home page for children. We are very careful about choosing links to other information on the Internet, but we have no way of controlling the information on Internet sites created by other people. We are only responsible for information on our Home Page.

We want to do everything we can to make you feel safe, comfortable and welcome when you come to the library. One way we do this is by giving you your own "Kids' Space Workstations" in many of our libraries. The computers in these workstations will stop many of the Internet sites with words or images that might make you feel uncomfortable, afraid or sad; but there is no way for us to stop everything that might make you uncomfortable.

You need to learn to protect yourself when you are on the Internet. If you see something you don't like, click the back arrow on your browser to get away from the image or words quickly, just as you would change the channel on TV if you saw something you didn't want to watch. If the back button doesn't work, ask someone who works at the library to help you get away from that site. If you see something on the Internet that bothers you, your parents or guardians are the best people to talk to.

We have rules to make sure people can get on the Internet at the library if they want to. We also have Rules of Conduct that remind you what you can and cannot do in the library. When using the Internet please respect the other people around you.

Copying information from the Internet and showing it to other people can sometimes be against the law. It is up to you to make sure you do not break these copyright laws.

If you have questions about what you can or cannot copy, or about how to use the Internet, ask someone who works at the library. If you are not sure about what you should or should not do on the Internet, ask your parents or guardians.

See the comprehensive
[Toronto Public Library Internet Policy](#)



[Go to the Web](#)

My Rules For Online Safety

- I will not give out my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
- I will tell my parents right away if I see anything on the Internet that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" on the Internet without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure to meet the person in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going on the Internet. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be on the Internet, the length of time I can be on, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not go to other areas on the Internet or break these rules without my parents permission.

Last Revised: October 18, 2002

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