Child Online Protection

The Internet has become the new playground for kids everywhere. They spend hours playing online games, using social networking sites, streaming music, and researching for homework. Without your guidance, your kids may end up visiting bad sites and encountering the wrong kind of people.

Prevent Unwanted Access

Kids may be exposed to sites with pornography, gruesome images, violence, and other inappropriate content. Your kids can also end up at unsafe sites through innocent search results or by clicking links to supposedly safe videos.

How to Keep It Appropriate

Establish limits. Tell your kids about the sites they can or cannot visit. Explain why some sites are inappropriate. Help set up bookmarks for your kids' favorite sites to lessen the change of visiting other sites.

Do a quick check. Make sure that the sites your kids visit are age-appropriate. Some sites specifically state the minimum age required to visit them.

Use parental controls. Most browsers have a built-in filter to ensure that only kid-friendly search results show up. Child friendly search engines are also available.

Establish open communication. When your kids are accidentally exposed to inappropriate sites, initiate a conversation to discuss the issues and concerns they may have with the material.

Preventing Unwanted content:

Kids can easily socialize with their friends or make new ones online. But online socializing can have risks, particularly cyberbullying or online grooming.

Cyberbullying refers to the act of harassing someone through information technology. Often times, this translates to bullying via the Internet. Cyberbullying can be difficult to address as bullies may hide behind fake personas, making them harder to trace and stop.

Online grooming is a way for online predators to victimize unsuspecting children. Sexual predators may attempt to befriend children online through flattery, sympathy, or gifts.

Preventing Unwanted Exposure

Privacy is a major concern for anyone who goes online. Children may have a difficult time discerning what type of information is appropriate to share on the different platforms available.

How to Keep It Private

Here's how kids can go online freely without being monitored or tracked.

Check privacy policies. See how much personal information is required by your kids' sites before they can sign up or post. Use the available privacy settings to make sure their accounts are not easily accessible by the public.

"Think before you post." Explain the importance of thinking twice before revealing or posting anything online. Help fill out online profiles. Make sure they don't share contact details online. Encourage them to use nicknames rather than their full names.

Review mobile apps. Take the time to study the permissions and the data apps can possibly expose.

Double-check your security. You can use privacy scanning software to check current privacy settings in different social networks to ensure your information remains private.

Keeping It Safe

The Internet can be a wonderful place for kids—but only if you make it so. There are several resources made especially for parents to make sure that their kids are exposed to the right type of material.

1) https://www.cert-in.org.in/SecurityofPC/SPC_colored_English/large/index.html

2) https://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/resources-educator.aspx