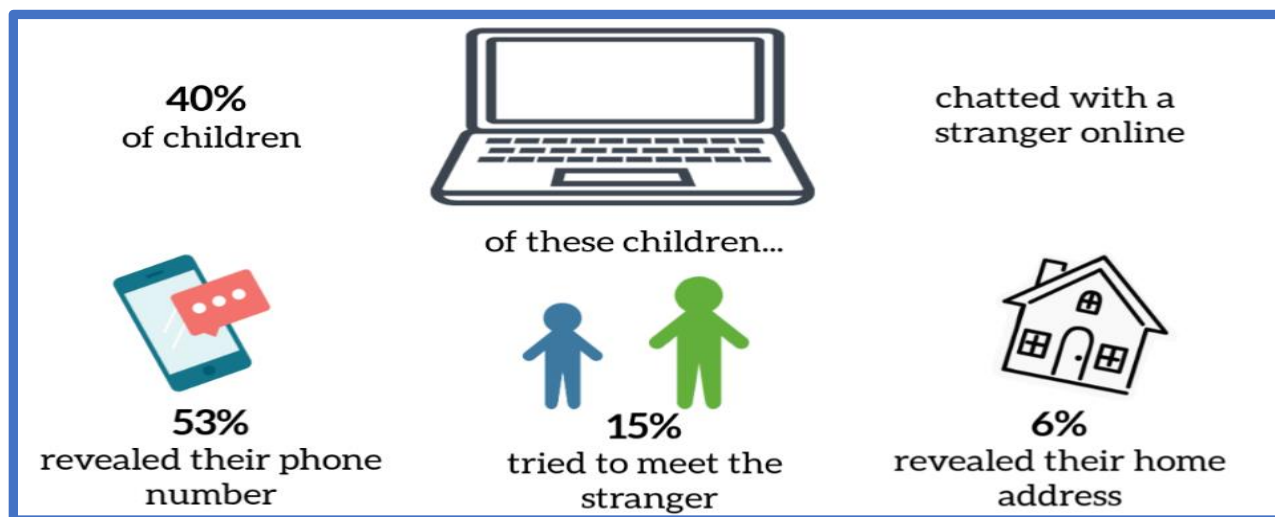## 10 Tips For Parents To Keep Your Children Safe Online

Aside from installing a trusted anti-virus on your child's computer, be sure to follow these basic tips for keeping your kid safe online. They'll go a long way to helping your little one avoid the dangers of the internet.

1. **Have a conversation with your kids**
   Kids are getting their first internet-connected gadgets at pretty young ages. So start talking to them early. Warn them about malware, dangerous websites and sex offenders. Let your kids know you're looking out for them, speak honestly with them, and *listen*. After all, if it's just you talking, it's not a conversation. It's a lecture. And no one likes a lecture.

2. **Keep your computer in a common area of the house**
   It's more difficult for sex offenders and online bullies to harass your child when you can see what your child is up to. So make sure your kids aren't going to bed with their laptops and phones. Keep internet time in the common areas.

3. **Know which other computers your children are using**
   Ask them where they go online and talk to their friends' parents about how they supervise their own kids' internet use.

4. **Remind your children, "Don't talk to strangers-or meet them"**
   Make it clear that online strangers are not friends. Remind your children that people often lie about their age, and online predators often pretend to be children. Emphasize that your children should never reveal personal information like their name, address, phone number, school name, or even their friends' names.

5. **Make internet time family time**
   You watch movies together. Why not browse the web together? Making it a family event can be fun. You'll learn more about your kids' interests and can guide them to websites that are more appropriate to their age.

6. **Know your children's passwords**
   If you've got a younger kid, create an account for them in your own name to avoid exposing your kid's name — and so you'll have the password. But please respect the age limitations on accounts. If a site says you should be 18 to sign up, then maybe your

child should wait. Whatever your choice, though, make sure you get their passwords and warn them that you'll be checking their accounts from time to time.

7. **Watch for changes in your children's behavior**
Being secretive about what they do online, withdrawing from the family, and other personality changes could be signs that an online sex offender is preying on your kid. So keep an eye out for any behavioral changes.

8. **Pay attention to any gifts anyone gives your children**
Sexual predators may send physical letters, photos, or gifts to children to seduce them. Stay alert and ask your kids about any new toys they bring home.

9. **Check your children's browsing history**
Open your child's web browser and look for "History" to see a list of websites they've been to. Also check the recycle bin to see if any files have been deleted. You may be surprised.

10. **Set rules-and stick to them**
As a parent, it's your job to limit your kids' screen time, set boundaries for inappropriate content, and make sure your children stick to them. So do it. Talk to your internet service provider about filters you can use to block pornographic or violent websites or invest in a Wi-Fi router with parental controls.

10 Internet Safety Tips for Kids

The internet is a great resource for finding information, but it's important that you are aware of the potential dangers. When you are browsing the Internet, make sure your parents know what you are searching for.

Here are some safety tips to remember when you are using the internet:

1. Don't give anyone your password, name, address, the name of your school or any information about your family
2. Don't talk to strangers on the Internet
3. Don't agree to meet anyone in person that you've met online
4. Don't fill in a profile that asks for your name and address
5. Don't visit a chat room without an adult's / parent's permission
6. Don't stay online if you see something you think your parents won't like
7. Don't post pictures of yourself without your parents' permission
8. Do not download or install anything on your computer without your parents' permission
9. If you have any questions about something you read, ask your parent or guardian
10. If you are talking to someone online and they make you uncomfortable, remember you don't have to talk back to them