ELIMINATE THE OPPORTUNITY
REDUCE THE RISK
SURF SAFELY

Follow the guidelines presented in this pamphlet and make an effort to learn about computer technology.

The Internet is a valuable research and education tool that is here to stay.

Our children are our future! They are also the most vulnerable members of our society.

Together, we can take positive actions to make our children's safety and future more secure by reducing their vulnerability to criminal activity and sexual predators using the Internet and commercial online services.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Internet or if you receive any harassing, disturbing or inappropriate material, please contact your Internet Service and the Police for information.

CRIME PREVENTION

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

EMERGENCY
9-1-1

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY
416-808-2222

For more information regarding **KIDS AND THE INTERNET** - Please contact the Crime Prevention Officer at your local Police Division.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.torontopolice.on.ca

Working Together to Prevent Crime…
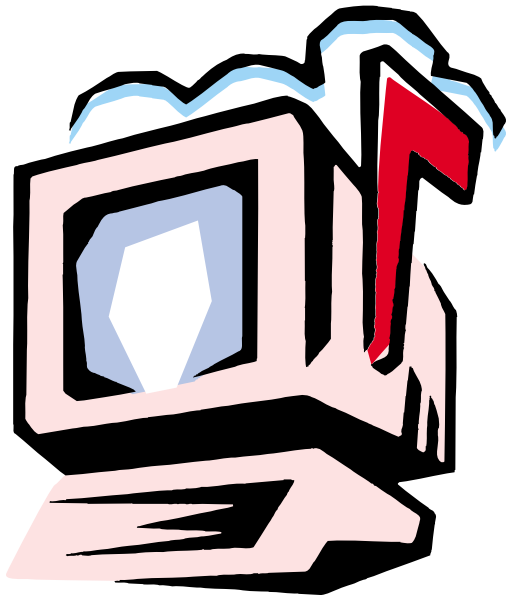
INTERNET SAFETY

PARENTS AND KIDS

WHAT IS THE INTERNET?

The Internet is a global, de-centralized network of computers taking advantage of common protocols permitting the transfer of information. No individual, company or government controls the Internet.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

There are many risks and security issues involving the use of the Internet. Parents and their kids should be most concerned about:

- Viewing inappropriate material
- Possible sexual assaults
- Harassment
- Hate crimes
- Frauds and scams

TIPS FOR KIDS

- **NEVER** give out any personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' place of work or their phone number, the name and location of your school or any other information that may identify you

- **NEVER** agree to get together with someone you 'meet' online without checking with your parents first - make sure you meet in a public place and take one of your parents with you

- **NEVER** send anyone your picture - don't accept any pictures either

- **NEVER** respond to any messages that make you feel uncomfortable

- **NEVER** lose your common sense while online - remember you are talking to a stranger! The people you are talking to may not be who they say they are

- **NEVER** send an insulting or rude message to anyone online. 'Flaming' is not good 'Netiquette'

- Use a 'code name'

- Report any harassment or inappropriate messages to your online service and to the Police

- Set your browser to say **NO** to cookies

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Learn about what your child is doing on the Internet - know what Web Sites they are visiting, know what types of chat rooms, e-mail and messages your child is involved in online

- Find out about Filtering Software Packages that are available to block out objectionable material

- Keep computer usage a family activity by putting the computer in a family room rather than in the child's bedroom

- Set reasonable guidelines for computer use by your children - monitor the amount of time spent on the computer and when

- Create a password that is hard to guess but easy to remember and change it often

- Have your child use a 'code name' while online

- Be wary of any offers that involve your child going to a meeting or having someone visit your home - remember that someone who says they are a '12 year old girl' could actually be a '40 year old man'