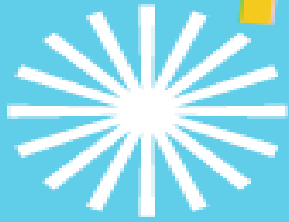# THE SMART GUIDE TO SOCIALISING ON THE INTERNET

cybersmart

KIDS ONLINE

Be cybersmart when you socialise

Extra tips
for PARENTS
Do you know who your kids are talking to?

Stay involved in your child's use of new technologies—get them to show you how social networks work. Set up your own account, join your child's 'friends' and see for yourself what they're doing. It can be a fun experience for you too!

Help your child set up their profile to make sure that they don't put too much personal information online.

Work out a plan—Check the privacy settings for each service, and see how to report abuse. Hopefully you will never need to do this but it's good to be prepared.

Talk to your child about what they like about social networking websites, what some of the dangers are in using them and teach them ways to stay safe. You may be able to create some house rules together.

Remember—Social networking can be useful, fun and rewarding if the risks are managed. It can be a great way to stay connected with your family and friends.

Above all, **keep the lines of communication open.** Kids need to be confident that they can talk to you about what's happening, without being afraid that they're automatically going to get into trouble.

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KIDS ONLINE
Be cybersmart when you socialise!

Social networking

MAKE FRIENDS AND STAY SAFE ONLINE

Social networking describes a variety of services like YouTube, MySpace, LiveJournal, Twitter and online games such as World of Warcraft and RuneScape.

Social networking sites are a great way to stay in touch with your friends and family. You can post information about yourself and display photos, tell everyone what you've been up to, play games and basically just hang out.

There are dangers. Bullying, people making inappropriate contact, over-the-top advertising campaigns, identity theft, scams and possible exposure to adult content can make places like these risky, but if you play it smart you can stay safe online.

Tips for Kids

Keep personal information secret—Make sure you don't put any personal information on your profile. This includes your phone number, personal email address, home or school addresses, sports teams or the name of your school. Be careful when you post photos that they don't include any of this information either.

Check with your parents or guardian if you do decide to give out personal information or put it in your profile.

It's public! Remember that you may feel that you are just talking to friends, but the whole world could be tuning in. Keep an eye on what's being posted and guard your privacy! Don't post photos that you might not want strangers to see.

Check out the features—Learn how to make your profile and other content you post public or private. You're the one in control here.

Think twice! Posts to blogs and profiles can stay there forever. Your parents, future employers (and perhaps your children) may end up seeing it.

Remember—Not everyone is who they claim to be. Although it's great to have lots of online friends, including them on your friends list allows people you don't know to see all about you. This information could be used for a scam, to steal your identity, or worse.

Keep your online friends online However, if you want to meet someone that you haven't met so far in person, ask a parent or another adult to go with you and always meet in a public place, preferably during the day.

Say NO! Free offers are usually too good to be true and can end up costing you a heap. Sad to say, not all promises are real.

Be considerate—be yourself, but play it nice—Only post comments you would be happy to receive yourself. Don't post photos of other people without their permission. Remember, when you post photos you might be hurting the privacy of your friends too.

Tell a trusted adult—Don't respond if someone sends you nasty or bullying messages or asks you to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable. Instead, tell your parents or another adult you can trust.