

the mill

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Providing Positive Options for Young People

Smart Surfing

By the mill publishing



First rule of smart surfing?

First rule of smart surfing? Remain as anonymous as possible. That means keeping all private information private. Here are some examples of private information that you should never give out on the Internet

“Everyone goes through a bad spell, but every thing learned is of vital importance”

- ❖ Full name
- ❖ Home address
- ❖ Phone number
- ❖ Passwords
- ❖ Names of family members



“Losers make promises they often break. Winners make commitments they always keep. ”



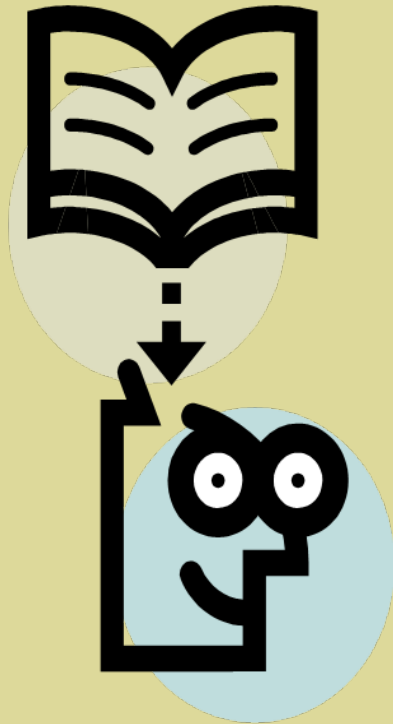
- **Most credible people will never ask for this type of information online. So if someone does, it's a red flag that they may be up to no good.**
- **Think carefully before you create an email address or screen name. Web experts recommend that you use a combination of letters and numbers in both — and that you don't identify whether you're male or female.**
- **In chat rooms, use a nickname that's different from your screen name. That way, if you ever find yourself in a conversation that makes you uncomfortable, you can exit without having to worry that someone knows your screen name and can track you down via email.**

- **Experts recommend that people keep online friendships in the virtual world. Meeting online friends face to face carries more risks than other types of friendships because it's so easy for people to pretend to be something they're not when you can't see them or talk in person.**
- **If you ever get involved in a chat room conversation that makes you feel uncomfortable or in danger for any reason, exit and tell a parent or other adult right away so they can report the incident**



“It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are. ”

Cyberbullying



It's not just strangers who can make you feel uncomfortable online. Cyberbullying refers to cruel or bullying messages sent to you online. These might be from former friends or other people you know. They can be irritating and, in some cases, even frightening.

If you get these bullying messages online, it's often better to ignore them rather than answer them. Cyberbullies, just like other bullies, may be angry or disturbed people — and may be looking for attention or a reaction.

Fortunately, most people never experience cyberbullying. But if you're getting cyberbullied and ignoring it doesn't make it go away, getting help from a parent, school teacher, or another trusted adult may be a good idea. That's especially true if the cyberbullying contains threats.