

Safe Steps **For Parents, Guardians and Children** **At Home and on the Internet**

On the Internet

- Never allow your child to give out identifying or personal information
- Don't post photographs of children on Web sites available to the public
- Know your Internet Service Provider's (ISP's) privacy and security policies
- Talk to your child about any concerns you have about online activities
- How you respond could determine whether a child confides in you if something happens
- Instruct your child not to open e-mails from unknown persons
- Remember that people online may not be who they seem. Someone indicating that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could in reality be a 40-year-old male predator
- Keep the computer in a family room – not in a child's bedroom
- Share an e-mail account with your child and oversee his or her mail, online journal, blog or personal page
- Know the lingo used by children in chat rooms and e-mail correspondence

At Home

- Be sure your child has memorized your home address and all of your contact numbers
- Make sure your child is properly supervised and remind your children to always stay together and report any unusual incidents to you
- Leave a list near the telephone that includes numbers for you, the police, the fire department, an ambulance service, your doctor, a poison control-center, and a trusted adult who's available in the event of an emergency
- Instruct your children to never tell callers when they are home alone and to simply offer to take a message for you
- Make sure your child knows not to open the door for, or talk to, anyone who comes to the home unless that person is a trusted family friend or relative, and the visit has been pre-approved by you
- Provide your children with a daily schedule of homework, chores, and the activities to follow while you are gone

[Media note: The Safe Steps partnership encourages you to print the above material as a parent-helpful sidebar to your story.]

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