

Internet access is an educational activity that is considered to be an important component of the educational environment in the preparation of students for life and work in the 21st Century. There are many educational benefits to learning how to use the Internet.

## **Educational Benefits of the Internet**

- 🌐 Research information related to classroom projects and activities.
- 🌐 Communicate with children from around the world to learn about culture and traditions.
- 🌐 Communicate with experts in their field via email or inter-relay chat.
- 🌐 Take virtual tours of art galleries and museums from around the world.
- 🌐 View animals in their natural habitat or in zoos using Internet Cams.
- 🌐 Share information with people around the world by posting a web page to the Internet.
- 🌐 Video conference with children about important issues.
- 🌐 Gather sound, video, text, and picture resources for school related activities.
- 🌐 Possess technical knowledge necessary for future life and work.
- 🌐 Get help with homework through online encyclopedias and other reference materials.
- 🌐 Improve reading and writing skills.
- 🌐 Learn about current events as they happen.

For more information about the Internet and how it is used as part of the TechnoKids program please contact

**TECHNOKids®**  
A TechnoKids Learning Tool

# Your Child and the Internet



- \* **What is the Internet?**
- \* **Educational Benefits of the Internet**
- \* **Child Safety and the Internet**

TechnoKids promotes using the Internet for educational purposes. The Internet is a global network that provides your child with a wide range of information and allow them to communicate with people around the world.

It seems that almost overnight there is a whole new world for kids — and for you as a parent.

The good news is that the online world offers children experiences that are educational and rewarding. In addition, understanding how to use the Internet may increase a child's school performance and future job potential.

However, the Internet can also present unsafe situations. Just as you would not allow your child to wander alone into unknown territory, you also would not want him or her to use the Internet without parental guidance and supervision.

The Internet poses new challenges for parents because, unlike television, radio, and videos, the Internet:

- \* Is interactive – your child can interact with anyone else online from your home, school or library.
- \* Allows any user, anywhere, to post any information, including materials that are inaccurate, misleading and inappropriate for children.
- \* Provides no restrictions on advertising to children.
- \* Is not always anonymous — even when you might think it is.

To help you keep your child safe online, this brochure provides an overview of three areas of the Internet popular with children.

- \* **Email**
- \* **World Wide Web**
- \* **Chat Rooms**

## Email

Email is electronic mail that allows a person to send messages to others using the computer. Not everyone in the world is kind and well intentioned. For this reason, it is imperative to discuss email safety. Read over the rules and discuss with your child the importance of using common sense.

- ✓ Do not share your password with anyone. To keep your email private change your password often.
- ✓ Never open attachments from unknown sources they may contain viruses or inappropriate materials.
- ✓ Do not reveal personal information such as full name, address, or phone number. Do not reveal family information.
- ✓ Never say you will meet someone in person without first discussing with an adult. Have an adult go with you and meet in a very public place.
- ✓ Do not reply to Spam mail. Spam is unsolicited mail such as chain letters or offers to purchase products.
- ✓ Do not reply to an unknown sender.
- ✓ Limit receiving mail with offensive language by using the email program options.
- ✓ Tell a parent if you receive a message that makes you feel uncomfortable or contains inappropriate material.
- ✓ Never send a person your picture as an email attachment.



## World Wide Web?

The World Wide Web is also called the web, the net or WWW. It consists of millions of documents, stored all over the world on computers that make up the Internet. Because these documents are linked together through a series of hyperlinks, or jump-points, information is easily accessed.

No one controls the World Wide Web and for this reason material you would consider inappropriate will be posted on the Internet. This information may be dangerous, criminal, defamatory, or offensive. How can you monitor what your child has access to on the WWW?

- ✓ Discuss with your child what you consider appropriate material.
- ✓ When your child encounters information that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable they should disengage from the information immediately and tell an adult.
- ✓ Purchase filtering software that limits the information your child accesses when searching the WWW.

## Chat Rooms

Chat rooms are web sites where you can talk to other people in “real time”. There are chat rooms that are intended specifically for children. However, anyone can visit these web sites. Just as you teach your children to be cautious of strangers you must discuss with them the dangers of meeting people on the Internet.

- ✓ Never reveal personal or family information.
- ✓ Never get together with someone you meet online without parent permission.
- ✓ If someone says something that makes you feel unsafe or strange in a chat room, sign off and tell an adult.