



AMERICAN SCHOOL BUS COUNCIL™

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Tips for Keeping Kids Safe Online

Our children are becoming savvy users of technology, including the Internet, video games, electronic music and other media. Many of these are educational, but some may also be age-inappropriate, offensive – or even dangerous.

The American School Bus Council is committed to keeping our children safe – whether they're on the school bus or online. Therefore, we have provided the following resources that will help you keep your kids safe on the Web.

Common Sense Media's guide, "**Keeping Your Kids Internet Safe and Smart,**" is available at www.commonsense.com. This guide describes challenges faced by parents online and survival tips for both kids and parents. It also guides you through different parts of the Internet – like **instant messaging, blogging,** and **social networking sites** like myspace.com – so you know what is available to your child online, and how you can keep your child safe from inappropriate material and contacts.

Many kids discuss information such as friends' last names, post pictures of themselves and give out their cell phone numbers without realizing this is personal information. It is important for families to discuss what information should not be posted online. There are sample rules, as well as software that can block your kids from posting this information, in the **Internet Smarts** section of www.powertolearn.com.

You can find additional information about Internet safety at other high-quality Web sites, including www.internetchildsafety.net, www.kids.getnetwise.org, www.netsmartz.org and www.safekids.com.

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