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Role of Internet in today's life

Internet today has become a basic necessity in our life. It is no more a corporate utility tool to put applications online. Today right from a CXO of large organization to a school going student, everybody has space for internet in their life. May it be used for business applications or learning or entertainment.

As internet penetrates our lives further and further it is very essential for us to make it useful for our children's growth as well. But like every coin has two sides, so does internet. The positive usability for children comes in the form of learning but excess usage can result in net-addiction and even involvement in cyber-crimes. As guiding parents we must know how best to educate our children to use internet positively. In this document we are trying to provide a tool kit not only to protective & caring parents but also to every net user. This kit aims to inculcate habits of accessing internet with ease and no regrets.



Your Child's Needs are Changing & So is Your Role

The level of guidance & protection needed is generally dependent upon age group your child belongs to. As your child grows the internet need grows. But along with grows the curiosity to explore over the internet. This might require a little more effort and few advance precautionary measures to be implemented. The below steps can be highly useful:

- If any site requires your child to submit any personal information then, encourage him/her to use nicknames rather than using the true identity
- Any information or photo with regards to car number plates, schools, friends etc should be strictly avoided from posting over the internet
- Children should be advised to use public chat rooms rather than have private chats
- Monitor your child's online friends and be vigilant if they are meeting them in person
- Any financial transactions of buying or selling should not be allowed to be done on the internet. Most children these days are exploring options of making easy money through online gambling and betting
- You need to monitor the websites that your child visits more often



broadband plan as per TRAI.

Your Child's Needs are Changing & So is Your Role

(contd.)

- Most children out of curiosity explore adult material and pornographically websites. Alternatively parents have to encourage them to see positive health and sexuality awareness websites
- Multiple login accounts can be created on a single computer which can have different access and usage privileges. You can have the Admin account and restrict the content and website your child accesses
- Online manners and ethics have to be thought to all children. Children should be advised and thought of not abusing, bullying, threatening or discriminating any one on the internet especially social networking sites, blogs and chat rooms
- Children should be advised of not sharing their passwords with anyone. Right from the early age they should be encouraged to have very secure passwords and trained to keep it secret at all times
- Children should be asked to logout from any website after they have finished using it
- You should protect them from online spammers that may cause some serious fraud or misfortune



Categorization & Common Rules

On the basis of age group broadly children can be classified in three categories namely up to 10 years old, between 11 and 14 years old and lastly 15 to 18 years old. Few basic rules that remain common for all age groups are listed below

- If possible physically supervise the internet usage
- Make internet usage a family affair
- Set clear rules for usage based on time, duration and place
- As much as possible the internet connected computer or laptop should be in a family area ideally living room Regularly check history of sites visited Make sure the right pop-up blockers and spam blockers are enabled so that your child accidentally does not access anything unsuitable
- Educate children not to divulge any Personal information like name, address, phone number and photos on the internet.
- Most important basic rule is that, if your child is unsure or upset with some thing or some one on the internet you need to make sure that you make him/her feel comfortable to let him/her talk to you about it. Repeated such situations should not be dealt with anger or frustration on your child otherwise the child will fear reporting such incidences again.

Proactively one may also install genuine Anti-Spyware, Anti-Trojan, anti-phishing and Anti-Malware software. ISP could be requested to do spam blocking. You can also buy software to filter sites opening on your system.



Conclusion

As a parent you know your child and his/her internet needs the best. The above are only suggestions that can guide in making sure that your child's internet usage is safe and productive.

About RCOM

Reliance Communications is India's foremost and truly integrated telecommunications service provider. The Company, with a customer base of 105 million including over 2.5 million individual overseas retail customers and nearly 3 million DTH customers, ranks among the Top 5 Telecom companies in the world by number of customers in a single country. Reliance Communications corporate clientele includes 2,100 Indian and multinational corporations, and over 800 global, regional and domestic carriers.

Reliance Communications has established a pan-India, next generation, integrated (wireless and wireline), convergent (voice, data and video) digital network that is capable of supporting best-of-class services spanning the entire communications value chain, covering over 24,000 towns and 600,000 villages. Reliance Communications owns and operates the world's largest next generation IP enabled connectivity infrastructure, comprising over 190,000 route kilometers of fibre optic cable systems in India, USA, Europe, Middle East and the Asia Pacific region.

