

# PROTECTING YOUR KIDS ONLINE



## TAKE CHARGE

### Set some ground rules.

Establish basic guidelines like when your kids can go online, what sites they can visit, and how many texts they can send a month, so everyone is on the same page.

### Research before you buy.

Did you know that handheld games can connect to the Internet or that many laptops have built-in webcams? Understand what technology you're bringing into your home.

### Don't just sit there—REPORT!

If your kids are dealing with cyberbullies or potential predators, report them to the website, cell phone service, law enforcement, or [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).

## MONITOR

### Supervise Internet use.

If you can see what your kids are doing, they're less likely to get in trouble.

### Safeguards ≠ Safe Kids.

Installing CIA-level monitoring software on your kids' computers does not guarantee they'll be safe online. Technology can't replace your time and attention as a parent or guardian.

### Don't go overboard.

It's smart to keep an eye on your kids' social networking profiles, but it's never cool when you post embarrassing messages or pictures to their page.

## COMMUNICATE

### Talk to your kids; they're not as mysterious as you think.

Your kids might not tell you everything, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't ask. Get involved so you're not the last to know.

### Challenge them to a duel.

If you have kids who like to play video or computer games, ask if you can play, too. When you respect their interests, they're more likely to respect your rules.

### Don't pull the plug.

Taking away your kids' Internet access because they've done something wrong doesn't solve the problem. Talk to them about protecting themselves and respecting others online.

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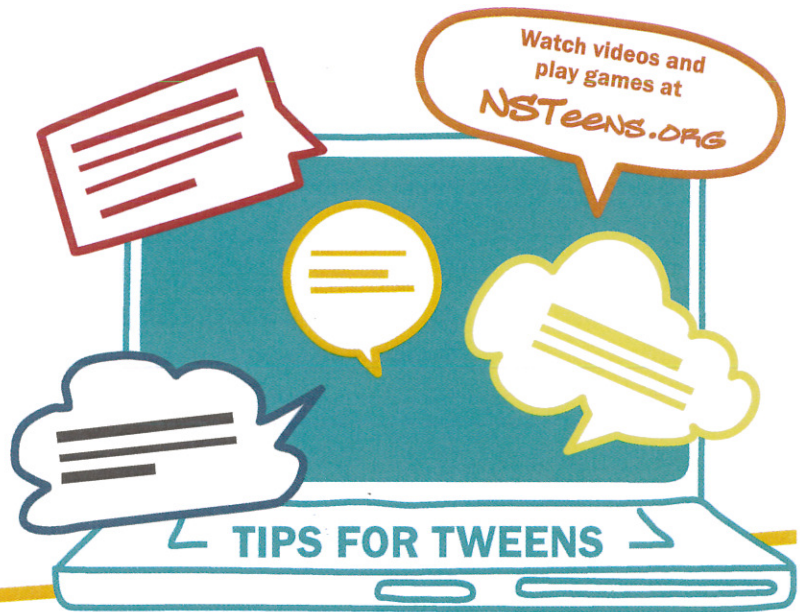


For more resources visit [NetSmartz.org](http://NetSmartz.org)

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[NetSmartz.org/TipSheets](http://NetSmartz.org/TipSheets)

# YOUR NETSMARTZ



## CYBERBULLYING

**Don't be mean.**  
Gossiping doesn't make you cool.

**Ignore. Block. Tell.**  
Ignore mean or threatening messages, block the sender, and tell a trusted adult who can help you report them.

**Speak up**  
if your friends are cyberbullying someone.

## ONLINE PREDATORS

**Recognize the difference between cute and creepy.**  
An older guy who wants to date someone much younger is just creepy.

**Don't just sit there - REPORT**  
anyone who asks to meet you in person to the police and [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).

## SHARING TOO MUCH

**Avoid TMI.**  
Don't post anything too personal or embarrassing.

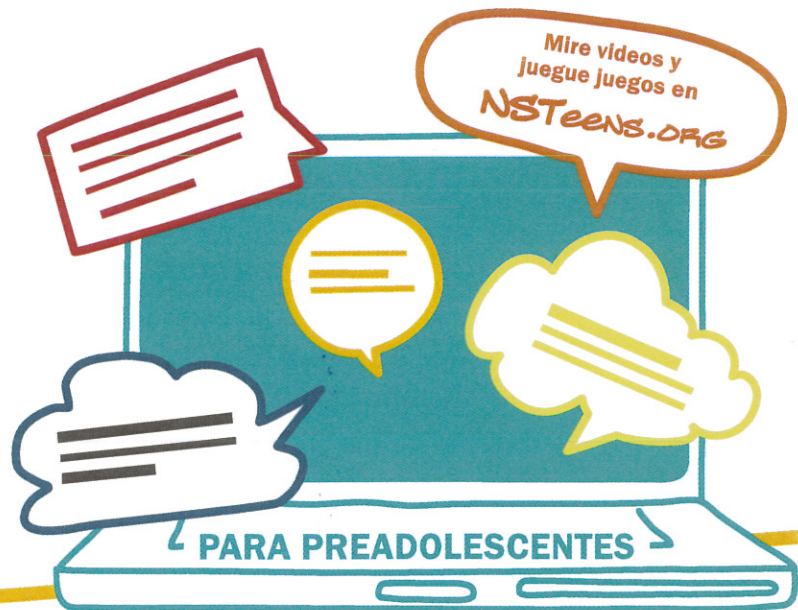
**Protect your space.**  
Use privacy settings and don't accept just anyone as a friend.

**Don't be that kid**  
who gets suspended for posting something stupid online.

## TRUSTED ADULTS

**Talk to your parents or guardians**  
about what you're doing online. They're not as bad as you think.

# CONSEJOS DE NETSMARTZ



## HOSTIGAMIENTO CIBERNÉTICO

**No seas malo.**

Divulgar chismes no te hace una persona genial.

**Ignora. Bloquea. Cuenta.**

Ignora mensajes ofensivos o amenazadores, bloquea al remitente y cuéntale a un adulto de confianza que pueda ayudarte a denunciarlo.

**Habla con un adulto**

si tus amigos están hostigando cibernéticamente a alguien.

## PREDADORES EN LÍNEA

**Reconoce la diferencia entre bonito y repulsivo.**

Un hombre mayor que desea salir con alguien mucho menor es simplemente repulsivo.

**No te quedes sin hacer nada: DENUNCIA**

a la policía y en [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) a toda persona que te pida conocerte en persona.

## COMPARTIR DEMASIADA INFORMACIÓN

**Evita compartir demasiada información.**

No publiques nada demasiado personal o vergonzoso.

**Protege tu espacio.**

Usa las configuraciones de privacidad y no aceptes a cualquier persona como amigo.

**No seas el niño**

a quien suspenden por publicar algo estúpido en línea.

## ADULTOS DE CONFIANZA

**Habla con tus padres o tutores** sobre lo que haces en línea. Ellos no son tan malos como tú crees.