## 9. Supervise face-to-face meetings.

▶ Teach children that they should never meet up with someone they met online without talking to a parent first.

▶ If you decide the meet-up is OK, make sure it happens in a public place. Go with your child or send another adult.

10. Stay aware of your child's online activities.

▶ Technology changes fast. But you don't have to be an expert to help kids be safe.

▶ Talking is one of the best ways to keep them safe.

▶ Let kids know they can count on you to help if they have problems.
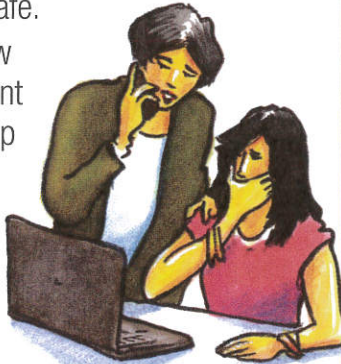
You may not be able to monitor everything your child does online. Your goal is to teach kids how to stay safe on their own. Until then, keep an eye on what they are doing.

Help your kids enjoy their online world and stay safe. For more information about staying safe online, you can visit: onguardonline.gov

Social Networking Safety

▶ 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS
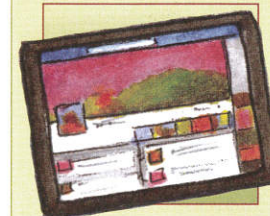
Many kids use social network sites, games, instant messages and texts to talk to friends and meet new people. Do you know how to help your child stay safe while they socialize online? These tips can help.

1. Talk about online safety.

- ▶ Your child needs to know that being social online is not risk-free.
- ▶ Some of the risks for kids include:
  - Someone trying to bully or harass them.
  - A hacker or scammer stealing their identity or even your identity.
  - Someone trying to harm them (like a predator or stalker).
  - Hurting their own reputation.

2. Set rules.

- ▶ Make rules that are appropriate for the age of your child.
- ▶ Rules may include things like using privacy settings and not sharing personal information or passwords.
- ▶ You may want to set rules about what they post, how they use tags, or who they "friend" or chat with.

3. Teach them to protect their information.

- ▶ Children should not give out their name, home address, email, phone number or other personal information.
- ▶ Children should not share passwords — not even with friends. Once a password is shared, they can't control who may use it.

4. Use privacy settings.

- ▶ Explore and set up privacy settings with your child.
- ▶ These will limit who can see your child's profile. But they do not mean total privacy.

5. Teach children that what they put online can be shared.

- ▶ Children can't control what others may do with their photos, texts or posts. Someone can re-post or forward a text or photo without your child knowing.

6. Talk about what not to post.

- ▶ What children put online or send in a message can follow them forever.
- ▶ They should not post bad language or embarrassing photos, or send sexy photos or texts (sexting).
- ▶ A future boss, school or college staff or others may find old posts, photos or messages.

7. Help your child avoid trouble.

- ▶ Be sure your child knows that their actions count. A text or photo meant to embarrass someone — even as a joke — may be bullying or harassment.
- ▶ Using someone else's name, password or screen name may be identity theft.

8. Children should not respond to a cyberbully.

- ▶ Responding may make things worse. Tell your child to save the message, and show it to you or another adult right away.
- ▶ Report threats of violence to the police.