

## Parent Resources

### **Surviving the 'Net Generation: Helping parents and others become more tech savvy.**

<http://blogs.moundsparkacademy.org/tro/parents>

This weblog covers a wide variety of topics including information on MPA tech policies, net safety, social networking sites, understanding "digital kids", hot new gadgets and gizmos, technology addiction issues, cheating and plagiarism and laptops. Our ultimate goal in creating this blog is for our all members of our community to become more informed about the issues surrounding technology and using laptops in school.

For a comprehensive net safety resource please check out the following site:

<http://www.ciconline.org/Enrichment/internetsafety/default.htm>

### **Creating a Safety Net**

*By Joyce Slaton*

Access Internet Magazine

Mar. 19 - Mar. 25, 2000

<http://www.accessmagazine.com/>

When confronted with the phrase Internet safety, most people think one of two things: "Who has my credit card information?" or "What are my kids doing online?" If the surfer is a parent, both fears probably spring to mind.

Electronic Privacy Information Center Director Marc Rotenberg says credit card fraud online is a relatively minor concern. "The real risk now is to your personal information, which can be sold to almost anybody whether it benefits you or not," Rotenberg says.

He advises Web users to guard their information carefully by avoiding sites that require filling out surveys with personal details and using tools that maintain online anonymity. (See information at the end of this article.) "You want to make sure you alone control what information you send out," Rotenberg says.

Most adults have the good judgment to avoid dubious sites and strangers on the Web, but kids are usually more naive and can easily fall victim to predators. "A kid's best tool is self-esteem," says Peter Banks, director of training and outreach at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He stresses maintaining a good dialogue with kids about Internet use. "Make a contract between you and your child about what information they can give out and what they should report to you."

Banks also recommends keeping the computer in a common area of the house and using filtering software or ISPs to direct kids' Web travels. Filtering tools such as software from Net Nanny and America Online's free filtering program (Keyword: Parental Control) can block access to chat rooms and adult sites, as well as restrict the distribution of personal information.