

Free Internet Filtering for your home.

<https://signup.opendns.com/homefree/>

BENEFITS OF OPENDNS HOME

- ✓ Websites will load faster, and with OpenDNS' 100% up-time, you won't have to worry about unreachable websites and DNS outages from your ISP.
- ✓ With over 50 customizable filtering categories, OpenDNS Web content filtering keeps parents in control of what websites children visit at home.
- ✓ OpenDNS blocks phishing websites that try to steal your identity and login information by pretending to be a legitimate website. Surf the Web with confidence.
- ✓ Over 30,000,000 homes, schools, and businesses of all sizes rely on OpenDNS for a better Internet.

Parental Control Software Options

- ContentWatch Net Nanny 7
- Kaspersky Safe Kids
- Mobicip
- OpenDNS Home VIP
- Qustodio Parental Control 2015
- Symantec Norton Family Premier

Navigating the Online Social Networking World

Navigating the online social networking world is a daunting task for most parents. Recent research has shown that parents can greatly influence their child's experience online. Dr. Larry Rosen, Professor of Psychology at California State University, Dominguez Hills and author of *Me, MySpace, and I: Parenting the Net Generation*, has found that parents can be very effective in parent-child negotiations surrounding social networking sites. Read on for tips to help make navigating the online social networking world with your child a productive experience.

First, and foremost, you are the parent, and you decide when and where the laptop is used.

This means that you, as a parent, set rules and limits on your child's behavior, but you do so while consulting with your child and listening carefully and attentively to his/her thoughts and ideas. The recommendation is to have regular short family discussions dealing with technology use in the house and elsewhere, keeping an open dialogue on a continuing basis.

Technology changes so rapidly that you need to keep abreast of what is new and hot and might be appealing to your child. For example, did you hear about Instagram five years ago? Your child will know all about current websites well before you do, so it is important to talk often and find out what technology is beckoning them to climb aboard.

Net Generation children are technologically savvy and can find a way to work around filters. It is important to discuss the types of materials that you would like to "filter" with your child and work together, proactively, to provide solutions should he/she encounter filtered material.

Pay attention to exactly what technology your child is using. Gaining knowledge is critical. Practice what "co-viewing," which means spending time using technology with your children. Research shows that most parents rarely or never look at their children's online social networks and do not check out the games they play or attend to how much they text or IM. Pay particular attention to what is on their social network page/s, including their friends, bulletins, blogs, photos, etc. If you see any "friends" that you do not know, ask about them, and click on their photos to see what they are posting on their pages.

Participate in your children's technology. Have them show you what websites they like. Ask them to help you create or revise your social network page. Request to be their "friend" so you can visit their page. Have your children show you other technology they use. Play games on their Wii, listen to their iPod, send a text message, watch an online video, have a chat or IM conversation. Have them show you how to use the technology that they use on a regular basis so you get a feel for what they are doing and can identify problems that might occur. Check in with your children often during family discussions about what new technology they are using. Communication is the most important parenting tool.

Proactive parenting allows you to anticipate potential problems and discuss them with your child before they happen. For example, if you read an article about teenagers making friends online and then meeting them offline, this would be a good issue to discuss in advance with your child. State your concerns and listen to what they have to say. Have them tell you how they would handle it and compliment them on their safe practices.

Parents cannot anticipate every potential problem that their child might encounter in today's electronic world. If your child does something that you think is harmful or dangerous, discuss the occurrence with them; you may want to ask them what they feel the consequences should be for their actions. Consequences should occur immediately, be contingent on the behavior, and applied consistently.

The Internet is a great source of information and allows us to connect easily with many people around the globe. For children, like adults, the Internet is a fascinating world of exploration and discoveries. But it can also be a place of danger. Educating yourself about the Internet can help you help your children to become aware of the advantages and disadvantages of using the Internet. Here are some key things you can do:

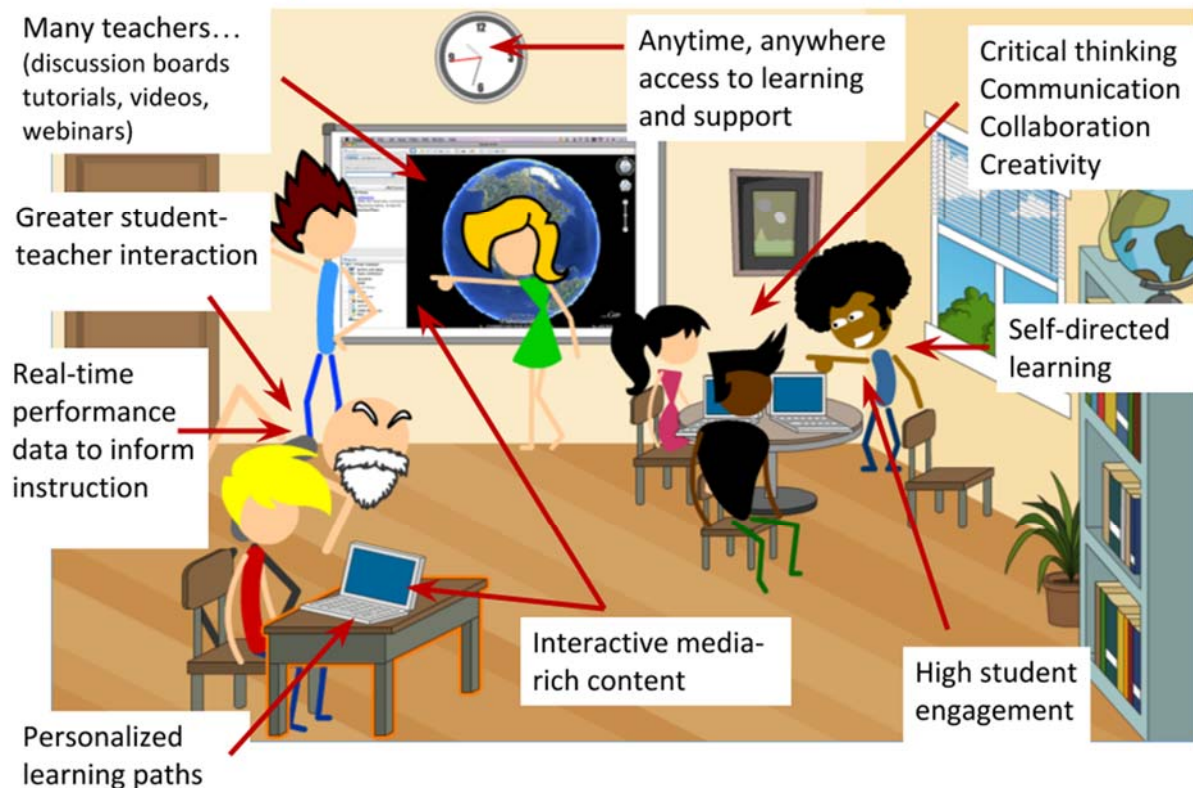
1. Learn Internet jargon: antivirus, blacklisting, browser, chat, firewall, forum, peer to peer (P2P), social networking, bookmarking, blog, spam, URL, VOIP, etc.
2. Talk to your children about some of the dangers online. People online can pretend to be any person of any age and profession they want. On the Internet, anyone can choose a fake name and post a fake photo. Make them aware of the fact that on the Internet people are not always who they say they are. Emphasize to them never to agree to meet any person they have met online without your permission.
3. Supervise Internet use. If your child has a question, invite them to consult you.
4. Help your child find positive sites and place them in their favorites list so they can revisit them easily. Some sites are especially designed for children.
5. Teach your child never to give their personal details to anyone and explain what personal details are dangerous to give people they do not know: photograph, home address, date of birth, phone number, school name, or anything else that can be used to identify them offline.
6. Teach your child about passwords and why they should never give their password to any person.
7. Use filters to block access to inappropriate sites.
8. Create different settings for different users to allow you to match the content to your child's age.
9. Cyberbullying is increasing. Encourage your children to avoid contact with bullies and never to reply to bullying messages. Teach your child to say "no" when they feel uncomfortable with any communication on the Internet and to let you know when this occurs.
10. Install antivirus software to protect you and your child's information.
11. Scams are very popular on the Internet. Make sure what your child downloads is monitored. They may download games with spyware - programs that collect information from your computer and use it to access private information, like bank details, passwords, email addresses, and other essential information you do not want anyone to know. Most antivirus programs now come with spyware protection, but it may need to be configured appropriately.

Your child is going to use the Internet more and more with its advantages and disadvantages. We hope these tips and resources will assist you in protecting them and educating them about its safe usage.

Technology in the classroom

A glimpse of how your child will learn in a blended learning classroom.

Anatomy of a Blended Learning Classroom



Technology provides numerous tools that teachers can use in and out of the classroom to enhance student learning. *Technology is a tool that can change the nature of learning.*

First and foremost, we want our students to learn. The real world is not broken down into discrete academic disciplines. To help prepare your child we will implement project-based, multidisciplinary, collaborative lessons. Technology lends itself to exploration and discovery. In a technology-rich classroom, students might search the Web for information, analyze information, chart their results, and record what they've learned on the computer. After students have compiled their findings they can share and display their information in a various ways.

Though the use of blended learning acquiring content changes from a static process to one of defining goals that students wish to pursue. Students become active rather than passive learners, producing knowledge and presenting that knowledge in a variety of formats.



In a technology-rich classroom, students don't "learn" technology. Technology merely provides the tools to be used for authentic learning. It is a means, not an end.

Technology provides educators with the opportunity to move from simply streamlining the way things have always been done to really imagining things they would like to do.

Activities and learning environments will be carefully guided and structured so learners are fully engaged in their learning activities.

“The point isn't to show that you can dazzle people with lots of digital wizardry. It's to show that you can use technology in thoughtful, well-planned ways to promote more effective learning.”

—JOSEPH SHEDD ¹

¹ Education World: Technology as a Tool to Support Instruction

http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech004.shtml

It's a K5 World, I Just Teach Here

<http://www.k5world.com/podcast-teachers-talking-tech/>