



# Internet Safety For Parents



As students become more and more skilled at using the Internet for school purposes, they also become more skilled at using the Internet for social and entertainment reasons. The website Myspace.com is a website that has gained much popularity with students of all ages. As a parent or guardian, you should learn about Myspace.com so that you can educate your student on the potential dangers of sharing too much information over the Internet. Myspace.com is a website designed for persons over the age of 14. It is a known fact that students under age 14 still use the website by certifying that they are over the age of 14 to gain access to the site. On Myspace.com, users set up their own personal webpage, which could contain personal information, photos, and opinions that is then accessed by anyone on the Internet through Myspace.com. All this free flowing information between friends and strangers is what makes Myspace.com so popular with everyone. But there is a potential danger to the student if too much information is posted which can attract undesirable persons to contact your child. So as parents or guardians, it is very important to understand this popular new form of socializing through the Internet and make informed decisions  
*A couple pointers to help you understand and make choices as a parent or guardian:*

- Computers in the home should be located in a central room in the house so everyone can observe what is being seen or read on the Internet.
- Parents must have heart to heart talks with their children about what type of personal information is inappropriate for Internet use.
- Parents or guardian need to set their own personal guidelines for Internet use in the home ***and away from home.***
- Home computers can have controls put on them to prevent accessing sites that you feel are inappropriate for your family.

To find out more about Myspace.com and guidelines for parents and guardians to follow, access these websites:

<http://familyinternet.about.com/od/chattingsafety/a/myspace.htm>

<http://websearch.about.com/od/myspace/a/myspacequestion>