Top 10 Tips for You

1. Set up an account for each user on your pc at home and only give yourself administrator access. This will allow you to keep control of the settings, the installation of software and to track the sites individual users have visited using the History (CTRL+SHIFT+H)
2. Install a child friendly search engine or set your favourite search engine to do 'safe searches'. This will make it more likely that a search engine returns content suitable for all ages. Stand with your child as they enter the web addresses of the sites they wish to visit or even do it for them. Once the web page is open create a shortcut on the desktop so the child can link directly to it in the future. You can do this by clicking on the icon located to the left of the web address) and dragging it to your desktop.
3. Encourage your family to use technology (not just pcs but also laptops, game consoles, internet browsers on phones etc.) in a public part of the house and not in a bedroom. Teach them to leave their mobile phones downstairs at bedtime.
4. All of the 3 major console manufacturers include parental control functions. Familiarise yourself and use them. For example, on an Xbox 360, using 'Settings, Parental controls' you can disable or limit Xbox Live. There is also the option to add a mask to voices so that a youngster's voice sounds like that of an adult or even a robot.
5. Both Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox come with their own pop-up blockers – use them. If you are accessing a site that has a genuine pop-up window that you need to access you should add it to the trusted sites rather than turn off the pop-up blocker. The settings can be found in the 'Tools' menu of the browser.
6. Encourage your child not to open e-mails from unfamiliar e-mail addresses and also avoid opening suspicious attachments which can contain viruses or age inappropriate content.
7. Pay attention to age restrictions on games and applications e.g. Facebook and Bebo are for people aged 13 and over. They are there for a reason!
8. Educate your child around the importance of not sharing personal information.
9. Keep virus protection software up to date
10. Engage in your child's world. Get them to teach you how to use the applications they use. Add them as a friend on a social networking site, text them, discover what their games consoles etc. can do and above all else TALK TO THEM about safe and responsible use.

Remember although you may protect your child whilst at home, other places they may access the internet (e.g. a friend's home) may not have the same safety measures in place. Educating our children is the key to keeping them safe

Additional Support
Child friendly search engines:

www.askkids.com www.primaryschoolict.com
www.kids.yahoo.uk

These are a few of the many search engines designed for children. They aim to filter out sites that parents and teachers might find inappropriate and make searching on the internet a simpler process. Bear in mind, however, that no search engine or software can guarantee that your child will never see anything you disapprove of. The best approach to internet safety is adult supervision.

Useful Websites

There are a range of useful websites that provide information for parents and children, including links to advice on how to set the controls for your ISP (Internet Service Provider) and parental controls on other technology:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.cybermentors.org.uk www.digizen.org

www.childnet.com www.ceop.gov.uk

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E-Safety
Practical advice for parents and carers

E-safety is not just about internet use via a personal computer, it is also about any electronic communications via mobile phones, games consoles and wireless technology. There is an ever growing need to educate children and young people about the benefits, risks and responsibilities of using Information Technology. Hopefully this leaflet will provide information, tips and ideas to help you to keep your family safe online.