TIPS

Tell your children not to post any identifying information online like their cell phone number, address, school name, or anything else that makes locating them easy.
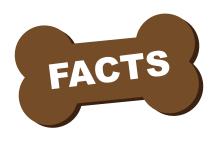
Remind your child never to give out their personal passwords to anyone but you, not even their friends.

Explain to your child that many people online are not truthful about their identity. Remind them to never meet people face-to-face that they met online.

Treat your children's online activities like you do their offline ones. Ask questions about what they do and who their friends are.

Teenagers need to know that some college admissions boards and employers are checking social networking sites before they admit students or hire people.

Source: National Crime Prevention Council

FACTS

71% of teenagers have received messages from strangers online.

45% of teenagers have been asked for personal information over the Internet.

33% of teens said their parents knew little to nothing about their online activity.

61% of parents allow their children to participate in online chat rooms and Internet messaging.

57% of parents didn't know common instant messaging abbreviations.

Source: Cox Communications and the Center for Missing and Exploited Children survey of teens and parents