Tips for Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet

NewsUSA

(NU) - The Internet is an educational, fun and exciting, tool for kids to learn and explore, but it also has potential dangers that adults can reduce through education and communication.
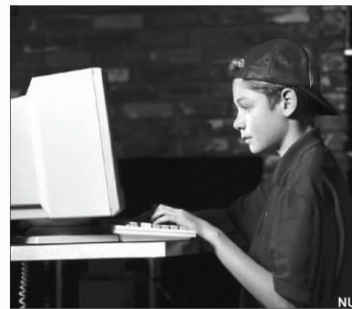
The National Crime Prevention Council notes that although many schools and homes use technical methods such as blocking software, no single approach is more effective than adult supervision and communication of safety tips and strategies.

Talking with kids about safety strategies on the Internet will provide them with necessary skills to make smart decisions outside of the home.

According to the Census Bureau, six out of 10 school-age children have access to the Internet either at home or at school. Although parents and caregivers cannot always control what children see and who attempts to speak to them online, they can protect kids by taking some simple steps:

• Become familiar with the Internet and discuss with children what is considered unacceptable and unsafe.

• Keep computers in a common area of the household, such as the family room or den, where children can be monitored online.

Parents can protect their children by teaching them online safety skills.

• Ask your children about the sites they visit and people they talk to online. Encourage them to tell you if they encounter anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

• Agree on times and places for your children to use the Internet and what content is appropriate for them to view.

• Insist that children not disclose any personal information such as their full name, phone number or home address without your specific permission.

By encouraging children to make smart online choices, parents can feel more comfortable about their children using the Internet.

To learn more about Internet safety for kids, log on to www.mcgruff.org.