



TIP SHEET SERIES NO.15

Online Game Playing Tips for Parents

Online games require interaction with other computers and players. Although communicating with others via the internet is fun for children, it is important to remember that children need protection while online. Some parents forbid their children to play. However even if it is not at home, it should not be overlooked that the children can possibly use internet at school or at the house of their friends. As parents of children, it is important to understand the risks of online games and how to guide your children in the game world.

- **Protect all devices connected to the Internet.**

Remember that computers, smartphones, gaming devices / systems and all other devices that are accessed over the Internet need protection from viruses and malware.

- **Keep your machine clean.**

Game systems are also software-hosted computers and need to be updated like your computers, laptops, smartphones and tablets. Security protections are included in these systems and are regularly updated. You should check that your online gaming systems have the most current protection.

- **Passwords must be long and strong.**

Create a strong password with numbers

and symbols by collating uppercase and lowercase letters.

- **Keep your security software up-to-date.**

The latest security software is the best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats, using a web browser and operating system.

- **Make sure your kids use an avatar image instead of a webcam**

It is not necessary to use of webcams in the games.

- **Protect Your Child's Personal Information.**

Tell your children what a personal Information is. Children should know what to share and what they should not share. Name, surname, address, phone number, user name, passwords, pictures, birthdays and social security numbers are personal information. Children who play games with individuals from different parts of the world may find it fun, but they should set the level of privacy to be protected against unknown people.

- **Know the Internet well**

Stay informed about Internet developments. You know what you can do if something goes wrong while your kids play.

- **Secure Your Children's Accounts.**

Passwords aren't enough to protect accounts. Because of this, many email



providers nowadays allow you to activate additional ways to verify your identity.

■ **Check your online presence**

When online, set your children's level of sharing information by checking their customization and security settings.

■ **Use voice-changing programs or tools.**

If your kids are playing games that require live chat, make sure they change their voices. If there is no such requirement in the game, do not allow your children to have a voice chat.

■ **Prevent cyber bullying.**

Warn your children to keep a record of the person they are playing the game, but they should not conflict with them.

■ **Stay up to date**

Stay up to date on new ways to stay safe online. Get information about this topic from trusted sources, share them with your children and make them well-informed individuals.

■ **If you are safe, everyone will be safe.**

The actions you take online have the potential to affect others. The online good habits benefit to the global digital society.

■ **Think before you take action**

Warn your children about people who want them to rush, and ask for their personal information. If these people come up with good offers that can not be true, make them think again and be careful. Tell your children that they should not download files from strangers.

■ **Being a Good online Citizen**

You should teach your children not say things that they would not say face-to-face. They shouldn't give up the courtesy rules when they are online.