

Child's Computer Use Agreement and Contract

Here are a few rules to keep your computer use safe and healthy.

1. I will only click on links with my parents' approval.

Hyperlinks, also known as URL's (Uniform Resource Locators) lead to websites and other things on the Internet. Many are harmless and good, and many are evil and wicked, and still many others are somewhere in between. Most of the bad things that happen online start with clicking on a hyperlink. Criminals can setup websites that look good and fun, but really do bad things. These bad things aren't always obvious to you. They may install malicious software (malware) on your computer and take full control of it, enabling them to do bad things like spy on you, steal all your information, or turn your computer into a zombie, controlled by a larger botnet. The possibilities are endless, and the safest thing is to always look twice before crossing the street - ask your parents.

2. I will never give out personal information, such as my home address, phone number, parents phone numbers, or parents' names, without first talking with my parents.

Personal information should remain private. If someone asks you for more than your first name, you should stop talking with them and inform your parents. Even if it's one of your friends, check with your parents first. You never know if your friends account has been hacked and is being used by someone else.

3. I will not give out my usernames or passwords to anyone (other than my parents), and will talk to my parents if a person, website, or application is asking for them.

The biggest scams on the Internet are the ones that fool people into giving up their usernames and passwords. Until you've developed strong skills for discerning legitimate from illegitimate uses, you should consult your parents.

4. If someone is being mean or a bully, I will not respond to them, and I will inform my parents.

The Internet is full of trolls, mean people who have fun by making other people upset. Trolls can be mean, ridicule, or just act like never-ending jokesters - they should simply be avoided. Sometimes you may want to confront them, but realize that is exactly what they want, and they will often pull in other trolls to help virtually beat you up if they have the chance.

5. If I come across something that makes me feel uncomfortable, I will tell my parents.

Your mom and dad want to help you navigate the Web, and know that it's full of stuff from every corner of the human imagination. Some of this stuff you will not like, and would rather not see. If you do come across something that makes you feel bad, scared, or uncomfortable, your mom and dad will be there to help you, be sure to tell them.

6. I will ask my parents before downloading or installing software and games, and understand that new software can compromise the security and privacy of my own computer and mobile device, as well as my family's.

7. I will not post pictures or videos of myself at any time without talking with my parents first.

Whether you want to send a photo to a good friend that you always chat with, or you want to upload a photo to use for a profile picture on a website or application, you will check with your parents first.

8. I understand what my digital footprint means, and that this footprint lasts forever.

You will become more aware over time, that everything you say and do online, as well as every photo and video you upload or post, every chat message you send, and every website you visit, can be recorded not just on your device or computer, but on the systems and application servers that you do not control. While some applications claim to delete everything you do, this is not always the case. Check with your parents to understand what your digital footprint means, and how each of the applications you use affects it.

Parent signature

Child signature

Date:

Date: