

- Guard against becoming too comfortable about submitting information as a regular part of online activities.
  - It is easy to forget and share personal information without stopping to think that you may be in a risky online environment.
  - Put a note on your computer to remind you: NEVER give out personal information!

### ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- Tell Mom and Dad about anything that makes you feel uncomfortable when you are using the computer.
- Teach your parents to stay safe while using the computer. You probably know more about the computer than they do.
- Set a good example for younger brothers and sisters when you are using the computer. They learn from you. Help to keep them safe!
- Your parents want to protect you all they can, BUT you have to help them do that.

## Have fun using the Computer by making safety a priority!

Mary B. Conyers  
Protect Every Child  
[www.protecteverychild.org](http://www.protecteverychild.org)  
[soapbox@bellsouth.net](mailto:soapbox@bellsouth.net)

# Chat Rooms Are **FUN!** They Can Also Be **Dangerous!**

**CHAT ROOMS** are Internet locations allowing instant live and interactive conversations between two or more computers. They can be in the same town or across the world.

**When you communicate with another person through the computer, it is like inviting them into your home.**

*It is so easy to give away your privacy and security without even realizing what you have done.*



**Privacy** is the right to be free from outside intrusions and to have control over your personal information. **Security** is freedom from danger, risk, care, protection against attack, etc.

In the world of the Internet, many young people and adults don't know how to protect their privacy when it is under attack. Learn the rules so the Internet can be a fun and safe place to learn and play!



### How Can You Protect Your Privacy?

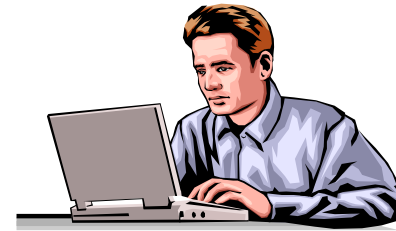
- Never fill out forms or enter contests on commercial websites without your Mom or Dad first checking their privacy statements before completing any information.
- Always check with your parents before adding any information to a website form.

- **NEVER** provide the following personal information on the Internet to anyone you do not know:
  - Name:  *always use a nickname that may be used for a boy or girl.*
  - Age
  - School
  - Phone numbers
  - Address
  - Even something as simple as school colors.
  - NEVER send anyone you met online your picture.
- **NEVER** provide personal information when you register for:
  - File-sharing,
  - Instant message,
  - E-mail, etc.
- **NEVER** complete personal profiles for an e-mail or instant messaging account.
  - Personal Profiles will ask for all kinds of information about you that can lead people to you and your home. 
- **NEVER** give personal information to strangers in:
  - Chat rooms
  - Through instant messaging
  - Always use a generic name—a name used by a boy or girl when going into a chat room or instant messaging.

### **STRANGER DANGER! What is it?**

Pedophiles, people who seek to abuse children, use online services to meet young children and teens by posing as a teen and then arranging a face-to-face meeting.

You may think you are communicating with another 13-year-old girl when it may actually be a 40-year-old man.



Any person you communicate with that you did not know before meeting him or her online *IS* a stranger. You want to be trusting of people, but you need to *think of anyone you meet online as a stranger. Stranger Danger is a real thing!*

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF?**

- Remember the most important rules:
  - DO NOT reveal any personal information about yourself or your family.
    - The first question usually asked of someone entering a chat room is: A/S/L—age, sex and location.
  - Remember that revealing personal information to a stranger met in a chat room:
    - Can lead to “cyber stalking.”
    - Receiving pornography from this person.
    - Being pressured to arrange a personal face-to-face meeting.
  - It is best to NEVER, EVER agree to meet anyone you met online. If your parents do give you permission to meet, NEVER go without your parents being present. If you and your parents do meet someone, *meet in a public place*. Another idea—meet inside your local police station!

