Pointers For Parents

Tips To Help Kids Guard Their Net

(NAPSA)—Children at risk while surfing the Internet unsupervised is a major concern according to a recent survey of U.S. middle school teachers. Helping to educate parents, teachers and kids about online safety is a new Web site and classroom program from McAfee.com, a leading online security service provider. The site was created with the help of noted Harvard University child psychologist Dr. Lawrence Kutner, Ph.D. and Colin Hatcher, president and CEO of SafetyEd.org.

As for the students, the Web site, kids.mcafee.com, offers some important "Do's & Don'ts" of Internet safety and privacy; tips for making friends online; tips for chatting; a Q & A for kids and teens; plus interactive learning software to help young people build skills, strengthen connections, and reduce involvement in risky behavior.

Together with Dr. Kutner, McAfee.com also created and distributed the Guard Your Net! Internet Safety & Privacy kit to middle schools across the country. The kit consists of parent and teacher materials, a classroom poster and a student guide with a Web searching exercise and crossword puzzle. The kit is available online at http://kids.mcafee.com. Last fall, McAfee.com launched its Internet Privacy Service which

Guard Your Net! program protects what matters most…our kids

lets users easily and selectively filter Internet content they want members of their families to view, send and receive.

This technology is useful for parents who want to protect their children from objectionable or offensive online content. Parents can share these tips from the site with their kids to help protect them from hackers, virus writers and online bullies:

Do keep your personal information private.

Don't give anyone your last name, password, or your address or phone number without a parent's okay.

Do tell an adult if someone says something that makes you feel uncomfortable online.

Don't meet with online-only friends in person.

Don't open e-mail or download files from people you don't know.

You can learn more Internet safety tips and get a free copy of the classroom poster at http://kids.mcafee.com.