Kids And Computers: Staying Safe Online

(NAPS)—Safety in cyberspace: That's what many parents want for their Web-savvy youngsters who use the Net for everything from e-mail and computer games to homework. Happily, there's a free and easy program that can help parents and their offspring stay online to safety.

To help young people everywhere understand the importance of online safety, Microsoft teamed up with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, NBA star Shaquille O'Neal and champion figure skater Tara Lipinski to create "Stay Safe Online," an easy, kid-friendly guide to the Internet. It's hosted by Tara, Shaq and their animated friends.

"I like Stay Safe Online because it's very fun and you learn while you are playing the game," says Symone, 12, who uses computers at a technology center at a Boys and Girls Club in Greater Milwaukee.

"The Web is an important resource for kids and we need to equip children with the right skills and information to make smart choices when they're online," says John Litten, program manager for youth and learning at Microsoft.

Available free over the Internet at http://www.msn.staysafeon

Free fun on the Internet: An easy-to-use guide for families teaches online safety.

line.com, the 15-minute interactive tutorial teaches children and their parents six simple guidelines for being safe online:

• Always be respectful of others

• Never give out personal information

• Always remember you are responsible for what you do online

• Always follow the Computer Room Supervisor's instructions (Tech Center specific)

• Never agree to meet in person the people you talk to online

• Never visit "off-limit" Web sites

To learn more about Microsoft's child online safety initiatives, visit Microsoft's Youth and Learning Web site at http://www.microsoft. com/ presspass/youthandlearning.