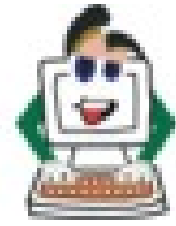


The Internet and Your Child



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Did you know.....

That Japan is made up of 6,800 islands?



That the people of the Netherlands are the tallest people?

That baby polar bears are the size of a rat and weigh little more than one pound when they are born?








The internet is a wealth of information and is a fantastic tool for you and your child. You can do research for projects with online encyclopedias, keep up with current events, check on the weather, watch videos, do your banking, trade stocks, play games and many more things. Anything is available on the internet. This is also a drawback.... Your child can be exposed to any type of information on the internet.

The internet has no borders. Even though an activity may be illegal in your country, it is probably accessible somewhere on the internet. There is no worldwide governing body for the internet so you need to govern this for your child.

Not only are there websites out there that you wouldn't want your child having access to, it is important that you know what your child is doing on the internet.

Email and chatting is a cheap and fun way to stay in contact with friends around the world. It can also be a dangerous way of meeting new people.

There are some easy guidelines you should follow with yours and your child's access to the internet:

-  Limit the time your child has access to the internet
-  Setup the pc in a common room, not in the child's bedroom
-  Take an active interest in what your child is doing on the internet
-  Just as you don't want your child talking to strangers in person, you don't want them meeting people in person whom they have met on the internet
-  Ensure your child never gives out their name or address in chat rooms

There are many software packages available which can help you monitor what your child is doing on the internet. Options range from automatically limiting use of the computer, blocking chat rooms and filtering out sites that contain nudity, sexual content, hateful or violent material. Some packages can also prevent children from revealing information about themselves like their name, address, or telephone number. www.getnetwise.org is a website that can help you define a tool you may want to implement.

The internet ***IS*** fun, ***IS*** educational ***AND*** offers many things. We just need to exercise the necessary caution.

TechnoKids Japan will be offering internet awareness courses for you, your child or both, starting in October 2005. For more information please email info@technokidsjapan.com