

**Subject: Children Online Newsletter**

You're receiving this email because you signed up at ChildrenOnline.org.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

**Quick Links**

[Previous Newsletters](#)  
[Resources for Parents](#)  
[Children Online Website](#)

**Join Our List**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

***Related Articles and Resources:***

We know from our many school visits and research that Facebook, second only to YouTube, is the most popular site for our children, ages 12 - 18. Recent changes on Facebook have made our children's accounts more public than ever, and they still don't realize their lack of privacy or the fact that they are developing an "online reputation" for which they will be judged. Here are several links of interest related to Facebook and privacy.

**Issue: #36****May 2010****36th Edition of the Children Online Newsletter.**

This edition of our newsletter marks the end of our third year of newsletters. It has been quite a journey. The Internet changes so quickly, as does children's use of it. For



example, ChatRoulette and FormSpring didn't exist even six months ago. Now both sites have "gone viral" with kids and neither site is a safe or appropriate place for our children. We recently joked that FormSpring ought to be re-named "MeanSpring" due to the mean and harassing anonymous comments that kids routinely post to each other. And, as is always the case, there are now several ChatRoulette and FormSpring wannabes.

In the month prior to this newsletter edition we welcomed another two hundred members, mostly parents. With more than a thousand readers from more than a dozen countries, we thought we would devote this issue to the words and phrases parents everywhere hear from their children about our efforts to put structure and boundaries around their Internet use. Parenting today is very hard work, especially since most of us are not "digital natives" like our children. We didn't grow up with these technologies and often don't have the frame of reference for parenting like we do with so many other issues that concern us.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Our

[10 Reasons To Delete Your Facebook Account](#)

[May 3, 2010]

[Facebook's Eroding Privacy Policy: A Timeline](#)

[April 28, 2010]

[Facebook privacy changes: Five can't-miss facts](#)

[April 23, 2010]

[New Facebook buttons don't 'like' privacy](#)

[May 2, 2010]

[Online Privacy And Why It's Important](#)

[January 23, 2010]

[Permanently Delete Your Facebook Account \[How-To\]](#)

[Nov 10, 2009]

[Report: Online privacy important to young people](#)

[April 15, 2010]

[Solve your Facebook privacy problem in under a minute](#)

[May 13, 2010]

[Want Privacy? On Facebook? Shut Up!](#)

[May 12, 2010]

[How to put Facebook on a privacy lockdown](#)

[May 11, 2010]

[How To Prevent & Remove Facebook Malware or Virus](#)

[Feb. 10, 2010]

telephone number for Children Online is 413-214-1225.

Best wishes,

Marje Monroe and Doug Fodeman

Contact Marje or Doug via email at marjem@childrenonline.org or dougf@childrenonline.org for information about our programs or consulting services.

### Demystifying the Internet and Empowering Parents

"It's none of your business", " You don't trust me", "I know what I am doing", "This is my world." "You are going to ruin my life. My social life is over."

It can be a frustrating and difficult experience trying to place limits on the technology use of our children. As children, we grew up with a template on how to parent. We watched our own parents navigate our world of cars, dating and alcohol. That template however didn't include the Internet, cell phones or Social Networking sites. Without the past to use as a guide, it can seem so much trickier to put boundaries in place for our own children. It is easy to defer to the worry of our kids over the impact of the technology in their lives. However, It is not a question of if, but when our kids will be exposed to material they are not developmentally ready for. Whether it is through emails, instant messaging or social networking sites, children and teens may be exposed to bullying, inappropriate material, meanness, malware, or marketing scams.

Children and teens often react with anger when adults try to reign in their Internet use. However, in most cases, the kids are not aware of the issues online and parents may not have the tools to provide counter arguments. We thought we would demystify the words our kids use to have more freedom online.

**"It's none of your business."** In fact it is your business. When using the Internet, especially chat rooms, instant messaging or social networking sites, kids have made what they say and do online very public. In fact, with hundreds of "buddies" on Facebook or in Instant Messaging, kids have

### **Empowering Parents / Setting Limits**

There are many resources for parents online. Unfortunately, many websites are bogged down with advertising and contain little advice. Here are a few of the better gems on the topic of empowering parents and setting limits amongst the tinsel.

[Empowering Parents: The Website for Effective Parenting](#)

[Raising Children of Character: 10 Tips For Parenting](#)

[Empowering Parents: Technology and Kids](#)

[Parenting Advice from FamilyEducation.com](#)

[Universal Laws for Teens from HealthyBoundaries.com](#)

[Setting Limits for Your Children](#)

As always, we need to keep our sense of humor! This video titled "[Etiquette and the Electric Friendship Generator](#)" ought to help.

**Book for Parents:**

potentially shared their "private" information with many thousands of people, even strangers. In addition, anyone with a Facebook account now has a great deal of their content exposed and available to others due to the recent changes (Dec. 2009 and May 2010) Facebook made to their privacy settings and terms of service.

**"You don't trust me."** Trust is a word that is misused today. By using Facebook or other social networking sites, our kids are putting their trust in their "virtual" friends who are in fact strangers or acquaintances. Strangers online should not be trusted and tweens and teens may not be protecting themselves well. We must also remember that often-times, it isn't about trusting your child but about trusting their naïve, inexperienced or risky online behavior.

**"I know what I am doing."** Your child may know what they are doing with technology and may be adept at navigating the Internet, but they don't know all the risks they face online. In fact, they face some serious risks. Just a few examples include the often fraudulent marketing that litters kids gaming sites, the relinquishment of ownership over any words or pictures posted online, and the risks of fake "buddies" trying to contact kids to pry personal information out of them.

**"This is my World."** The Internet is actually a very commercial and adult world. While many sites look appealing to kids and are lots of fun, they in are, in fact, filled with adult content and language. The risks posed in social networking sites require a great deal of judgment, patience and common sense. Children and teens may not be ready to handle those decisions. Their impulsivity also often leads many to make poor decisions.

**"You are going to ruin my life. My social life is over."** This argument often worries parents. We don't want to be responsible for causing social or emotional harm to our kids. We don't want them to be "on the outside" of their social group. However, the immediate tangible worry for our kids is very real. As kids they are not aware of the real risks they face online and in the world of virtual relationships. They continue to need our guidance, experience, love and decision-making skills to help them grow up at a healthy, developmentally appropriate pace in line with our family

[Racing to Keep Up: Talking with your kids about technology use and strategies to protect the home computer](#)



Strategies for parents to talk with their kids about technology use and ways to keep the home computer safe.

Doug Fodeman  
Marje Monroe

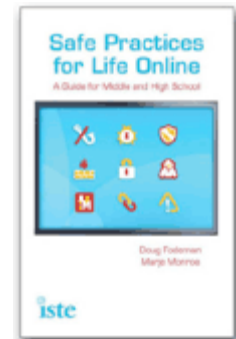
values.

*Often the fear of losing Facebook can mean real life consequences such as not getting posts about sports or club announcements. We recommend calling schools, coaches or organizations to ask for updates through email and not through Facebook.*

## INTERNET SAFETY CURRICULUM

### Safe Practices for Life Online

Children Online has a curriculum on Internet Safety that includes nearly 100 student exercises and lots of information on many topics including social networks, instant messaging, cyberbullying, online marketing, scams directed at kids, protecting privacy online, avoiding identity theft and impersonation, creating strong passwords and more.



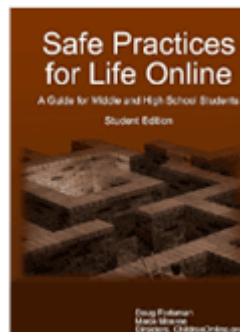
Doug Fodeman  
Marje Monroe

iste

### About Children Online

**Children Online offers innovative and comprehensive workshops on Internet safety and online education to students, parents, faculty and administrators. Our approach, unique in the field of Internet safety, combines a thorough understanding of Internet technologies, child development and counseling, to focus on the impact of the internet on the social, emotional and language development of young people.**

**Doug Fodeman and Marje Monroe, experts in technology, counseling and education, work together to provide invaluable research and tools for parents and schools with practical real-life solutions to the issues faced by young people online. Since 1997, Marje and Doug have spoken to thousands of students, teachers and parents. They have several publications in the area of Internet safety and offer a free online newsletter. More detailed information can**



Doug Fodeman  
Marje Monroe  
ChildrenOnline.org

There is also a student edition which includes cartoons and "Did you know" sections of interesting facts for students.

To learn more or place an order visit our [publications page at ChildrenOnline.org](#) or go directly to our publisher's pages:  
[Teacher's Edition at ISTE](#)  
[Student Edition at Lulu.com](#)

be found at ChildrenOnline.org.

Â© Children Online 2010  
Doug Fodeman & Marje  
Monroe.  
For permission to reprint  
please contact  
DougF@ChildrenOnline.org

[Forward email](#)