



TWO WORLDS

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**'STAY
CYBERSAFE'**

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“Stay CyberSafe” are two words of advice shared by our Police and organisations to help keep you you safe online here in Australia. Hopefully, these words will offer some guidance and inspiration to help you live a happier and healthier life.

It is wise to Stay CyberSafe

Whilst the internet is fantastic resource for our adults and children to explore, learn and connect it has also has its risks and dangers. Online criminals target young people because they know they are easier to trick, and this assists them in connecting with them on social networks such as Instagram, Facebook and SnapChat. Children can be connected very easily to 100s of people online, many of them being people they have never met. You’d never dream of letting your children play strangers but this is what is happening when you don’t watch out for them online. Children don’t see the harm in positing personal information not realising that this could be used against them. Here are a few tips on helping you and your children stay cyber safe.

Things you can do to Stay CyberSafe



Check your privacy settings

Social networking sites give users more control over their privacy settings. You can control who can view your personal information, your photos, comments you post, and friend’s posts.



Do not overshare

Do not share your mobile number, email address, home address or date of birth. This information can be used for identity theft purposes and criminals are always on the lookout for this information. Also, seemingly innocuous photos may reveal where you live so think before your post



Don’t connect with anyone you do not know in the real world

The average teenager has 425 Facebook friends and often considerably more on sites such as Twitter or Instagram. Predators create false accounts and take seemingly harmless information like your child’s favourite football team or the name of the school that they attend to build trusting relationships.



Never post a picture you wouldn't want made public

Criminals can pretend to be a good child of a similar age and over time they start to send messages. Eventually, this leads to the suggestion that photos should be swapped. These may start out harmlessly enough but over time could become harmful or inappropriate. Images you or your child share can be used in a harmful way.



CyberBullying is not OK

Never get involved in CyberBullying. Just because you cannot see the effects your words have it does not mean they do not hurt. If you or your children are the victim of CyberBullying tell somebody who can help like a parent and consider informing the police.



Think before you post

Increasingly, colleges, universities and employers are checking social networks to get an understanding of an who somebody is before they are selected for a job interview / applicant's background. Information posted online may exist forever so today's actions may have an impact on the future.



Be a good digital citizen

Social networks can be a wonderful tool for the good. People typically emulate their friend's behaviour. Do a little to improve the world.



Learn more and talk to your children

Make sure that you find out about what is available online, and how your children are using the internet. Speak to schools and have open and honest discussions with your children to make sure they know how to behave online. Being safe online is just as important as being safe on the street. Getting street and cyber smart are very important.



We would like to say thank you to the team at Safe Kids Pro for their partnership and contributing the content for this brochure. For more information on Safe Kids Pro and and more tips on being a responsible digital parent, visit www.safekidspro.com



wsmrc.org.au

**For more information about 2 Worlds, 2 Words
contact Western Sydney MRC on 8778 1200 or visit our website.**