

## **Child Online Protection**

### **What is Child Online Protection?**

Child Online Protection (COP) is an initiative which is established by International Telecommunication Union in 2008. COP is an international collaborative network to protect children worldwide against cyber threats by providing legal, technical and organizational measures.

Protecting children online is a global challenge, which requires a global approach. While many efforts to improve child online protection are already under way, their reach has been more national than global.

### **What can you do as a child?**

#### **SMART rules for children and young people**

S- Set your limits – Think twice before sharing anything online. Once you post any information on the Internet, you may never remove it or prevent other people from using it. Be critical of what appears to be a fact may really not be true at all.

M7 Meeting online friends offline , Think twice before meeting an online friend in real life. Bear in mind that your online friend might turn out to be a different kind of person than you thought he or she would be.

#### **A- Accepting invitation/friendship -**

Through online connections you can connect with people previously unknown to you. You may get requests by strangers who want to be included in your contact list and see your profile, but it is not wise to accept them. There's nothing wrong with declining invitations you are not sure about.

R-React , Protect yourself from upsetting or distressing content. Do not Knowingly access or share links to such sites. If you see something that bothers you, talk about this with your parents or someone you trust. Block anyone approaching you using rude, intruding or threatening emails or comments. Even if the message may be upsetting and makes you feel uncomfortable you should save it so you can show it to an adult for advice if needed. You are not the one to be ashamed of the content of the messages. Always be alert if someone, especially a stranger, wants to talk to you about sex. Remember that you can never be sure of the true identity or the intentions of that person. Approaching a child or a young person in a sexual way is always a serious cause for concern and you should tell a trusted adult, so you or the trusted adult can report it.

T - Tell Someone About It - If you have any concerns or problems while online, you need to tell someone you can trust. Your parents or some other adult can help and give you good advice on what to do. There are no problems that are too big to be solved! You might also want to call a child helpline available in your country or the Police.



## Summary

You can do a lot of great things on the Internet. You can play games, you can chat with friends, meet new friends and find a lot of useful information. You have the right to enjoy and explore all the digital world has to offer. But you also have to be aware that you can find some unpleasant things on the Internet, such as images and stories that may confuse or even frighten you. Your friends and trusted adults are not the only people within this digital world.

Unfortunately the Internet is also used by people who are not so nice or who might even want to harm, harass or bully you or other people. While using the Internet you need to be aware of certain basic rules to be able to safeguard yourself and others. You have the right to use the Internet safely and to set your own limits. Be smart, responsible and safe online, as well as in real life.

## What can you do as a parent and an educator?

1. Keep the computer in a common room.
2. Install Firewall and Anti-virus software
3. Agree on house rules to use the internet and personal devices, giving special attention to issues of privacy, age, inappropriate places, bullying and stranger danger.
4. Agreed rules for mobile use.
5. Parents should be familiar with Internet sites used by their children and have a good understanding of how children spend their time online.
6. Investigate online resources for further information about online safety and how to use the internet in a positive way.
7. Understand how children use other personal devices such as mobile phones, tablets, game consoles, e-readers, MP3 players and PDAs.
8. Consider whether filtering and blocking or monitoring programmes can help support or underpin children's and young people's safe use of the internet and personal devices. If you use such software explain what it does and why you are using it to your children. Keep confidential any relevant passwords linked to these programmes.
9. Control use of credit cards and other payment mechanisms
10. Warn children about expressing emotions to strangers



11. Observe advertising, and report inappropriate advertising

12. Education and media literacy is crucial. Explain guidelines and rules of the virtual world. Children will likely adhere to the guidelines and often remind others to do the same. Educate your children not to reply to rude messages and to avoid sex talk online. Teach them not to open any attachment or link they receive while chatting with others because it might contain harmful content.

13. Explain to your children that photographs can reveal a lot of personal information. Children should not be allowed to use webcams or to upload any content without the approval of a parent, guardian or responsible adult. Encourage your children not to post photographs of themselves or their friends with clearly identifiable details such as street signs, license plates on cars, or the name of their school on their sweatshirts



27621



enquiries@trbr.vu



www.trbr.vu