



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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### **Keeping Children Safe in a Technology-Based World**

#### **Did You Know?**

#### **Internet Filter Software Is No Substitute for Parental Monitoring**

There is a lot of material on the internet that is inappropriate for children. Parents can use filtering software to protect children from that material, but filters do not guarantee that children will not be exposed; a filter will never be a substitute for parents' presence. Here are some basic tips that can help you keep your children safe while using the internet:

1. Monitor your child's online behavior. Set rules about where and when your child can go online.
2. Keep your family computer in a highly visible, common area, like the family room or the kitchen.
3. Ask your children to show you what sites they go to, and be open and willing to discuss the inappropriate material they might come across.

Source: [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

#### **How to Report Inappropriate or Illegal Content on the Internet**

One of the main reasons that children do not report inappropriate content they find online is fear of punishment from parents. If you let them know that it is not their fault if they come across an inappropriate site, they will be more willing to come to you if it happens. If your children ever show you a site that contains illegal behavior, such as pornographic images of children, or if they receive obscene materials through email, contact your internet service provider and report the incident to the CyberTipline. Reports made be made to the CyberTipline 7 days per week, 24 hours a day at 1-800-843-5678 or [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).