EIGHT- TO TEN-YEAR-OLDS

KIDS AT THIS AGE:

- Are interested in the activities of older kids in their lives, are starting to develop a sense of their own identity, and they tend to be trusting and do not often question authority

- Enjoy surfing online and using mobile devices for fun and playing interactive games

- May be using e-mail and may also experiment with instant messaging (IM), chat rooms, and message boards (online forums), social networking and other interactive sites, and mobile devices although the use of these programs is strongly discouraged at this age

- Are curious and interested in discovering new information

- Lack the critical thinking skills to be online alone

- Are vulnerable to online marketers who encourage them to give out personal information through surveys, contests, and registration forms

- May be frightened by realistic portrayals of violence, threats, or dangers

- May begin to communicate with online acquaintances they may not know in real life

- May be influenced by media images and personalities, especially those that appear "cool" or desirable

- May be exposed to search results with links to inappropriate websites

- Are vulnerable to online predators if they use chat rooms, message boards, social networking, text messaging or instant messaging (IM)

GUIDELINES:

- Sit with your kids when they are online, or make sure they only visit sites you have approved.

- Keep any Internet-connected computer in an open area where you can closely monitor your child's online use.

- Set parental controls at the age-appropriate levels and use filtering and monitoring tools as a complement—not a replacement—for parental supervision.

- Use kid-friendly search engines or search engines with parental controls.

- Do not allow instant messaging, chat rooms, or social networking sites intended for older audiences at this age. *(See Appendix B-12 for a list of social networking sites for younger children.)*

- You and your child should have the same e-mail address. Establish a shared family e-mail account with your Internet service provider rather than letting your kids have their own accounts.

- Get to know your child's online activities and friends. Talk to your kids about their online friends and activities just as you would about their other activities.

- Teach your kids to always come to you before giving out information through e-mail, message boards, registration forms, personal profiles, and online contests.