

Sample Contract for Responsible Online Behavior

(Create your own contract with your child that reflects your family values.)

I, _____, understand that having access to the Internet is a privilege that I earn by using the Internet in a responsible manner. I have read the following Internet guidelines, and I agree to follow them and to discuss with my parents any problem that comes up with regard to these guidelines.

SAFETY

1. I will access parent-approved sites only.
2. I will not open any communication unless I know whom it is from.
3. I will give my parents a copy of all my passwords.
4. I will not communicate with people I do not know.
5. I will never give out personal information to anyone online and I will inform my parents if anyone asks for this information (name, address, phone number, school or email address, picture).

ETHICAL COMMUNICATION

6. I understand that what I say matters and I will not:
 - Use words in any form to harm, threaten, intimidate, or bully anyone.
 - Start or spread gossip.
 - Use curse words or obscene language.
7. I will be careful about “fooling around” and will never say that I will do something I really don’t want to do.

STATE OF MIND AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8. I understand that online behavior can become addictive. I will be conscious of how much time I am spending online and how this is affecting my state of mind and my ability to fulfill my responsibilities.

INFORMATION

9. I understand that everything I see and read online is not necessarily true and that it is my responsibility to figure out what is true and what is not.
10. I understand that my right to privacy online depends on how responsibly I use the Internet. My parents maintain the right to review my emails, texts, web pages, and browser history.