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## Know What Your Children Are Doing and Viewing

*“Raising kids is part joy and part guerilla warfare.” -Ed Asner*

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Install inexpensive monitoring software on the home computer. You can't always be around when your children are online. Some of the best parental-control applications allow you to configure the program remotely and notify you via email or phone call if the kids are trying to access inappropriate material. (This information is current as of June, 2008. Stay current with reviews of content filters and monitoring software at [www.internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com](http://www.internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com) and [www.pcmag.com](http://www.pcmag.com). Select *Parental Control and Monitoring*.)

**Pick ONE of the following high-quality programs to fit your family's needs. The costs are approximate.**

- SpectorPro     [www.spectorsoft.com](http://www.spectorsoft.com) (Mac/Win) \$79.00 (*Surveillance*)
- SafeEyes       [www.internetsafety.com](http://www.internetsafety.com) (Mac/Win) \$49.00 (*Surveillance & Controls*)
- Bsafe Online   [www.bsafehome.com](http://www.bsafehome.com) (Win) \$49.00 (*Surveillance & Controls*)
- NetNanny      [www.netnanny.com](http://www.netnanny.com) (Mac/Win) \$39.00 (*Surveillance & Controls*)

### **Free (but less powerful) Family Safety Programs**

*McGruff SafeGuard* (Sends you email alerts, Daily Summary of Activity, Auto-Monitors for phrases, Monitors Sites visited, Chat, Instant message conversations, emails on AOL/Yahoo/MSN/Hotmail) [www.gomcgruff.com](http://www.gomcgruff.com) (Win)

*K9 Web Protection* from Blue Coat (Filtering, Anti-Phishing)  
[www.K9webprotection.com](http://www.K9webprotection.com) (Mac-Beta/Win)

*Free Kid Safe Browser*  
(Complete parental controls, language filter, popup blocker)  
[www.mcgruffbrowser.com](http://www.mcgruffbrowser.com) (Win)

**Enter your home address online** to see how many child sex offenders or rapists live nearby. Sign up for automatic notices if a new offender moves into your neighborhood.

[www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us)

### **Why monitor online behavior?**

- It provides official documentation that you can submit to police officials in the event of harassment, predation or exposure to child pornography. "It is a violation of Federal law for any person to knowingly send or attempt to send obscene material to a child under the age of 16 years. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children takes reports of unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Please report any incidents to 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)." (Source: NC Department of Justice)
- It alerts parents to potentially dangerous encounters before they escalate out of control.
- Parents gain a new awareness of friends, social trends, and the general culture of our youth. This knowledge alone enhances the parent-child bond and makes for more realistic conversations.
- Parents can use the data to make informed decisions about setting limits, establishing structure, and teaching valuable life lessons.

In an FBI Publication, prepared from actual investigations involving child victims, it is strongly recommended that you "monitor your child's access to all types of live electronic communications (i.e., chat rooms, instant messages, Internet Relay Chat, etc.), and monitor your child's e-mail. Computer-sex offenders almost always meet potential victims via chat rooms. After meeting a child on-line, they will continue to communicate electronically often via e-mail."