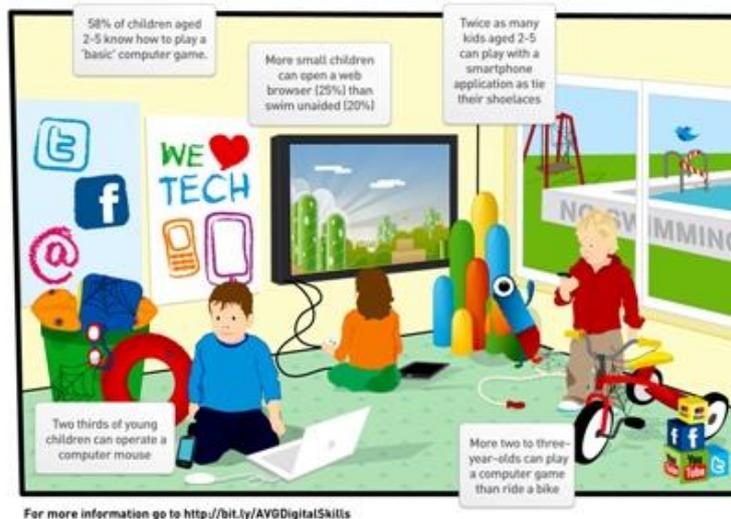


Tips to keeping your toddlers safe online



The latest study polled 2,200 mothers with Internet access across the USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. The mothers, all with children aged 2-5, were each asked to rank a list of computer and traditional life skills according to how early their children had mastered them.

- More young children know how to play a computer game (58%) than swim (20%) or ride a bike (52%)
- 28% of young children can make a mobile phone call, but only 20% know to dial 911 in case of an emergency
- 69% of children aged 2-5 can operate a computer mouse, but only 11% can tie their own shoelaces

Try these “keep safes” to help protect children as they begin to explore all the wonders of the Web and technology:

1. Keep your computer/games console in the living room where Internet activity can be closely monitored.
2. Very young children should not use social networking sites, they are designed for adults and older young people. There is plenty of time later.
3. Talk to your children. Know what is going on in their lives, and look for any signs of new influences or distress. Establish early on a bond of trust that will allow you at least some access when their lives get more complicated and susceptible to external pressures as they grow older.
4. Don't be complacent. Children know more than you think. Never assume your child doesn't know enough or isn't capable enough to put themselves in harm's way. They've always known technology and will take to it quickly and naturally.
5. Limit the time your child spends on the computer, never more than an hour or so online, balance it with other activities, indoors, outdoors, playing with friends, family time etc. Don't use the computer / games console as a babysitter!
6. Keep your own use of the Internet in check as you yourself could put your family at risk by sharing too much about you, your children, and where you live – adults are just as likely to make mistakes in their use of social networks as children.