The Leader in e-Safety Education

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ACTIVITY—The Cyber Community

Name _____ **Date** _____

Directions

Below are two categories: "Appropriate," or safe, and "Inappropriate," or unsafe. Following are 25 places in the online community. Decide which go into the "Appropriate" category, and which go into the "Inappropriate" category for students your age.

Appropriate	Inappropriate

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Places in the Cyber Community
an online encyclopedia site
an online hacking for beginners site
your school's Web site
an online homework help line
gossip central—post your comments on others
bathing beauties—a site of beautiful women
teen central—a site just for teens
music, games, and movies—free downloads
a Web site to get driving directions
a Web site to look up phone numbers
shopping site—requires a credit card to browse
play to win—a gambling site
i-SAFE's Web site
online newspaper site
supremacy rules—a hate site
a Web site with fun and educational online games
a Web site that requires your full name, address, and more to log on
a gambling Web site
a Web site all about outer space

Children who participate in activities and share what they have learned about Internet safety are more likely to practice safe habits online.

Additional materials and support for students, teachers, and parents on Internet safety topics are available from i-SAFE Inc. **www.isafe.org**.

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PARENT PAGE—Family Policy on Inappropriate Web Site Access

Your child has been learning that the Internet is part of the cyber community, which contains both appropriate and inappropriate places to visit.

To make this a successful learning experience, it is important for parents to become involved by reinforcing this concept at home.

Your child has learned that to be safe, he or she needs to know what to do if an inappropriate Web site is accessed by mistake.

If you have a home computer, explain to your child how you want him or her to respond if an inappropriate Web site is accessed, and have your child demonstrate that he or she understands how to do that. Some options are:

- Get help from a family member or trusted adult.
- "X out" the webpage.
- Turn the computer's power switch off.
- Turn the computer monitor's power switch off.

In addition, it is important to remember the following when it comes to setting rules and guidelines for Internet use: While it is important to monitor and set rules for Internet use, it is also important to remember that children do need some privacy. Try to set a reasonable balance, and make sure lines of communication are open so that you know what is going on in your child's life, and so they feel free to come to you with issues. Become familiar with how your child uses the Internet. Ask them questions, and get involved.

Where do they go when online?

With whom do they talk?

What are their screen names and passwords?

By becoming familiar with their patterns of use and time spent online, you will be able to detect any changes in behavior that may signal a potential issue. Set some basic rules as a family that everyone can follow when online.

Also keep in mind that cell phones have come a long way. Many provide Internet access and text-messaging features. Set rules and guidelines for cell phones that are similar to rules for Internet use at home.

Finally, always encourage your child to share his or her Internet experiences with you. Talk about what he or she does online each day and how to handle any issues that come up, and reaffirm that you are always there if needed. Remember: You want your child to feel comfortable coming to you if he or she encounters something disturbing online!

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