

INVERELL SHIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

PARENTS GUIDE TO THE INTERNET

The Inverell Shire Council Public Library has developed the Parents Guide to the Internet to provide parents and guardians with a brief explanation of the Internet. It is hoped by reading this guide that parents and guardians gain a better understanding of the Internet. This in turn will provide them with the opportunity to ensure that their children's experiences of the Internet are beneficial and productive.

What is the Internet?

The Internet consists of literally thousands of computers connected together from all around the world. People and organisations are able to connect and disconnect from the Internet at any time. The most popular part of the Internet is the World Wide Web (WWW) or Web for short. The amount of information and the type of information that can be accessed is almost unmeasurable.

Who controls the Internet?

No particular person or organisation controls or regulates the Internet. This means that there is no restriction on the type of information that can be made available. Anyone can publish information on the Internet and there are no checks made on what is accessible to the user.

The Library and the Internet

The introduction of the Internet to the Library is a wonderful opportunity for people to gain access to all sorts of information in addition to other Library resources. However, the Library is unable to control the content of the information that is made available on the Internet. Parents/guardians are reminded that similarly with other library resources it remains the responsibility of the parents/guardians to monitor what their children have access to.

Parents, children and using the Internet

The Internet is an additional library resource providing access to a wealth of information. Like any of the other resources in the Library monitoring children's access to these resources is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Developing an understanding of the Internet will assist parents/guardians to make informed decisions about their child using the Internet. Participating in the Internet session with your child will increase your knowledge about how it works and what is available on the Internet. By working through the Internet session with your child you are able to maintain an awareness of what they are doing.

Information accessed via the Internet

When using the Internet it is not always easy to find what you are after. It is often harder to find information that is correct, timely and suitable to your specific needs. It must be remembered that there are no restrictions on who can publish on the Internet. Therefore, it is important that when you access information on the Internet that you consider who wrote it, when was it written, does the writer have any authority in that field and so on.

Encouraging children to analyse and judge the information they access on the Internet is just as important as analysing and judging the information found in print sources. Teaching children to evaluate the information they access is an important life skill and will assist them throughout their life.

Please remember

The Internet is a new and exciting experience for many children and they will be keen to explore the Internet. However, children need to be made aware that not everyone is who they say they are. The Library urges parents/guardians to advise their children not to provide any personal information, such as their name, address, and telephone number, over the Internet.

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