Children present unique security risks when they use a computer—not only do you have to keep them safe, you have to protect the data on your computer. By taking some simple steps, you can dramatically reduce the threats.

**BE INVOLVED** - Consider activities you can work on together, which will allow you to supervise your child’s online activities while teaching good computer habits.

**KEEP YOUR COMPUTER IN AN OPEN AREA** - If your computer is in a high-traffic area, you will be able to easily monitor the computer activity. This will deter a child from doing something they are not allowed to do, and it gives you the opportunity to intervene if you notice a behavior that could have negative consequences.

**SET RULES AND WARN ABOUT DANGERS** - Make sure your child knows the boundaries of what he/she is allowed to do on the computer. This may include rules about how long the child is allowed to be on the computer, what sites the child is allowed to visit or what software programs the child can use. Discuss the risks of sharing certain types of information (e.g., that they’re home alone) and the benefits to only communicating and sharing information with people they know. Make sure to include the topic of cyberbullying in these discussions. More information on that topic can be found at www.stopbullying.gov.

**MONITOR ACTIVITY** - Be aware of what your child is doing on the internet, including which websites your child is visiting. Try to get a sense of who your child is corresponding with and whether the child actually knows them.

**CONSIDER SEPARATE ACCOUNTS** - Most operating systems give you the option of creating a different user account for each user. If you’re worried your child may accidentally access, modify, and/or delete your files, you can give your child a separate account with a decreased amount of access and privileges.