

How can I SUPPORT my child's Literacy with ICT at home?

When your child uses ICT at school, he or she is supervised by teachers. However, it's up to you to supervise your child's use of ICT in your home or in the community. Start by talking with your child about what learning is taking place in school and about how he or she can use ICT to think critically, creatively and ethically during learning.

Encourage your child to think critically by providing a wide variety of information sources, such as websites, television documentaries, interviewing Elders/local experts and trips to the library. Ask questions! For example, you may ask

- *how many different sources of information did you find?*
- *where did you find the information?*
- *how do you know the information is reliable?*

These conversations will help your child to develop critical thinking skills.

Encourage your child to think creatively about innovative ways to share his or her knowledge with others. With ICT, your child can produce animations, videos, photos, pictures, text and audio recordings to name but a few!



How can I keep my child SAFE when using ICT?

Talk with your child about your expectations around the use of ICT at your home, at friends' homes, or with mobile devices, such as cell phones and MP3 players. Just as you watch television with your child, spend time surfing the Internet with your child. The more you learn about what your child is doing with these tools, the better you will be able to keep him or her safe.

Be sure that your child is comfortable in coming and talking with you about any problems experienced online without having to worry about losing access to these tools. **Fear of losing access to ICT may prevent children from sharing what is really going on in their 'digital' lives.**

It is important to remember that the Internet can be a safe place for children to learn and play. Following the guidelines below and using common sense will keep your child safer during travels along the information highway.



- If you have a computer, keep it in a **high traffic** area of your home. Children at any age should **never** have access to the Internet in their bedrooms.



- Information shared online may not remain private. Be sure that your child is **not sharing personal information**, such as his/her full name, address or phone number with others online.



- Children should **never agree to meet** someone in person with whom they have only "met" or talked with online.



- Ask your child to tell you about any online conversations with others that made him or her **feel uncomfortable** or frightened.