

Does your child have a Facebook account?

Facebook is a popular Internet social networking tool.

However, Facebook does not allow children under 13 years of age to have an account. If your child is under 13-years-old and has a Facebook account, he or she is violating the Facebook membership rules.

Using Facebook can be a risk, particularly for younger children.

There have been many incidents of children posting information on Facebook that is inappropriate, including:

- home addresses
- photos
- bullying comments
- personal information about themselves or their family members
- links to other pages that have age-inappropriate content

Young children's pages may be visible to strangers. Pictures and other information can be taken from the student's pages and saved onto a stranger's computer.

Underage students do not generally understand the potential perils of the Internet and the ways to be safe while using the Internet.

If your son or daughter has a Facebook account and is under 13 years old, you may consider deleting the account.

Parents who have children old enough to have a Facebook account should have access to their child's account by having their son or daughter's password and frequently checking his/her page.

Please discuss Internet safety with your children!

If you need information on Internet safety, please visit the following information sites:

Ministry of Education
(available with language translations):
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resources.htm>

Safe Kids: <http://www.safekids.com/>

KidsHealth:
http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html

