# TWO- TO FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

| KIDS AT THIS AGE: | GUIDELINES: |
|---|---|
| ⊙ Will accept media content at face value<br><br>⊙ Don't have the critical thinking skills to be online alone<br><br>⊙ May be frightened by media images, both real and fictional<br><br>⊙ Risk moving from appropriate to inappropriate sites through hyperlinks | ⊙ Always sit with your child at the computer (EIE recommends that children at this age not be exposed to the Internet).<br><br>⊙ Parents can begin teaching basic computer skills by introducing age-appropriate games and educational programs. |

# FIVE- TO SEVEN-YEAR-OLDS

| KIDS AT THIS AGE: | GUIDELINES: |
|---|---|
| ⊙ Are very capable at using computers and cell phones (i.e., following commands, using the mouse, and playing computer games)<br><br>⊙ Will accept media content at face value<br><br>⊙ Don't have the critical thinking skills to be online or text alone<br><br>⊙ May be frightened by media images, both real and fictional<br><br>⊙ May be unintentionally exposed to inappropriate websites<br><br>⊙ Are vulnerable to online marketers who encourage them to give out personal information through surveys, contests, and registration forms<br><br>⊙ Risk moving from appropriate to inappropriate sites through hyperlinks | Always sit with your children when they are online.<br><br>⊙ If children are introduced to the Internet, parents are encouraged to:<br><br>   1. Use kid-friendly search engines and/or "walled gardens" with parental controls. *(See Appendix B-8 for a list of kid-friendly search engines.)*<br><br>   2. Set age-appropriate filtering at the most restrictive level.<br><br>   3. Create a personalized online environment by limiting your kids to their list of favorite or "bookmarked" sites.<br><br>   4. Keep Internet-connected computers in an open area where you can easily monitor your kids' activities.<br><br>   5. Start teaching kids about privacy. Tell them never to give out information about themselves or their family when online.<br><br>   6. Have your kids use an online nickname if a site encourages them to submit their names to "personalize" the web content.<br><br>   7. Block or disallow the use of instant messaging (IM), e-mail, chat rooms, mobile Internet, text , picture and video messaging, and access to or message boards at this age.<br><br>**NOTE:** Services such as The Children's Internet offer children safe, age-appropriate Internet experience available for a monthly fee. If you do allow your child to use a mobile device, use a kid-friendly mobile device (See B-16). |