

## **Statement on Children and the Internet**

The Thomas Crane Public Library affirms the rights and responsibilities of parents and legal guardians to guide and monitor their minor children's access to all library materials and resources, including those available via the Internet.

Children using the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing content. Parents are advised to discuss appropriate use of this resource with their children, establishing guidelines and boundaries. Parents who believe that their children cannot responsibly use the Library's Internet access are requested to accompany their children to the library to supervise their online activity.

In order to offer some safeguards for children, the Library's public computers prevent users aged 12 and under from accessing sexually explicit material and material harmful to minors. However, the Library's filters cannot be relied upon to block all inappropriate materials. In addition, filters may block useful and inoffensive materials.

The Library also provides guided access to the Internet through the Kids & Families section of the Library website, which offers resources especially for children.

Parents are advised to learn about the Internet and explore it with their children, and to follow these recommendations:

- Provide clear guidelines--let your children know if there are subjects that are off limits
- Teach your children safety rules for dealing with strangers online, and appropriate ways to deal with online businesses
- Ask a librarian for help finding appropriate online materials for children

*Adopted by Vote of the Library Board of Trustees, June 8, 2015*