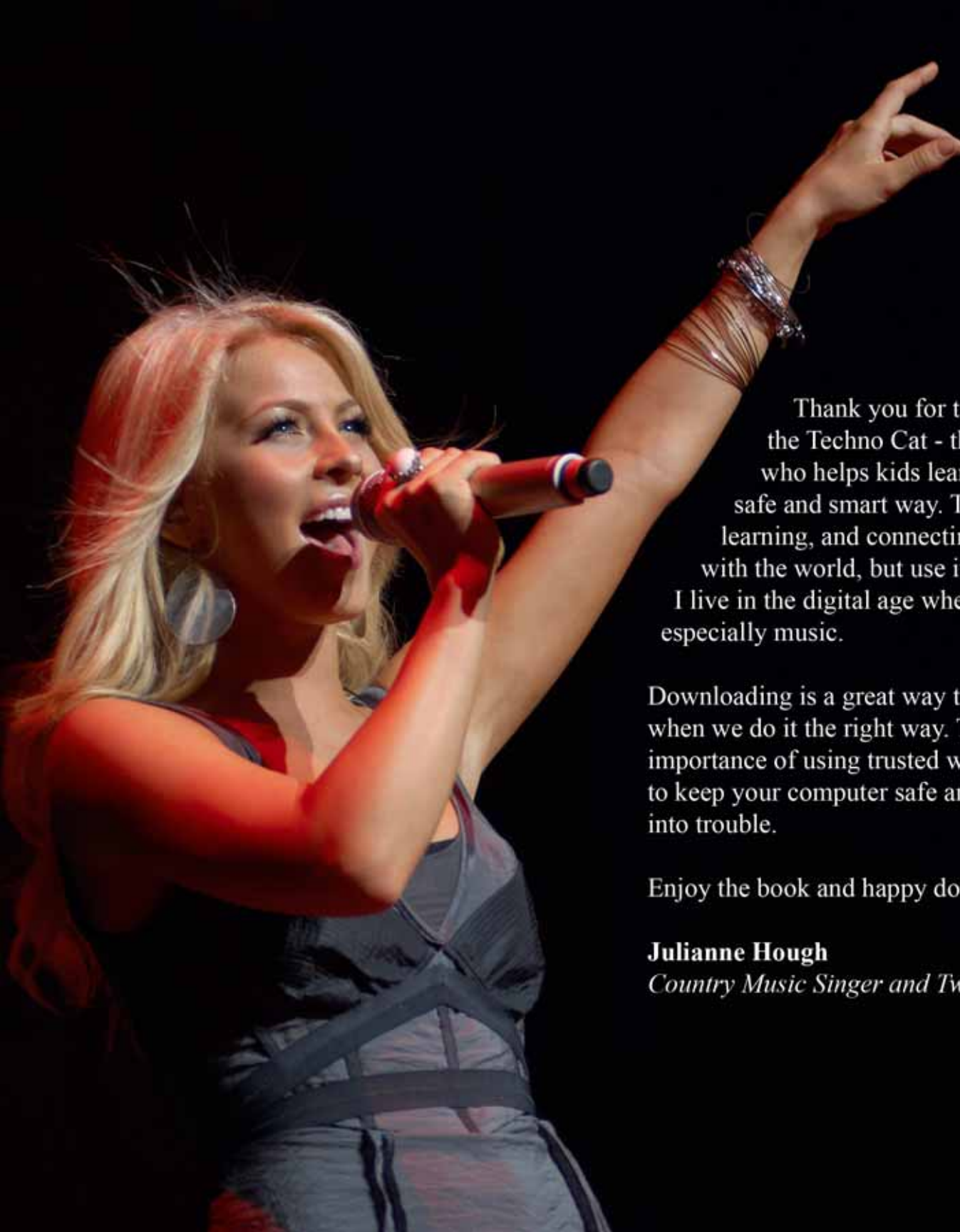# FAUX PAW

AND THE
DANGEROUS DOWNLOAD

Written by Sally Shill Linford

**Illustrations by
Circles & Squares Animation**

Faux Paw the Techno Cat® Series created
by Jacalyn S. Leavitt

LINFORD

PEACE OF MIND FOR FAMILIES ONLINE™

Thank you for taking the time to get to know Faux Paw the Techno Cat - the adventurous, six-toed, Web-surfing cat who helps kids learn to use computers and the Internet in a safe and smart way. The Internet is a powerful tool for fun, learning, and connecting with each other. It puts us in touch with the world, but use it in a safe and healthy way. I'm glad I live in the digital age where I can access all kinds of information, especially music.

Downloading is a great way to share music, movies and new ideas, when we do it the right way. This story helps us understand the importance of using trusted websites for downloading. It's about how to keep your computer safe and how illegal downloading can get you into trouble.

Enjoy the book and happy downloading!

Julianne Hough
Country Music Singer and Two Time Champion of Dancing with the Stars

For our parents
Nancy D. and Talmage W. Shill
and
Ann and Daryl Ropp
who taught us to work for our living and to pay for what we bring home

I just love to download!

I can buy new songs,

and watch my favorite cooking show.
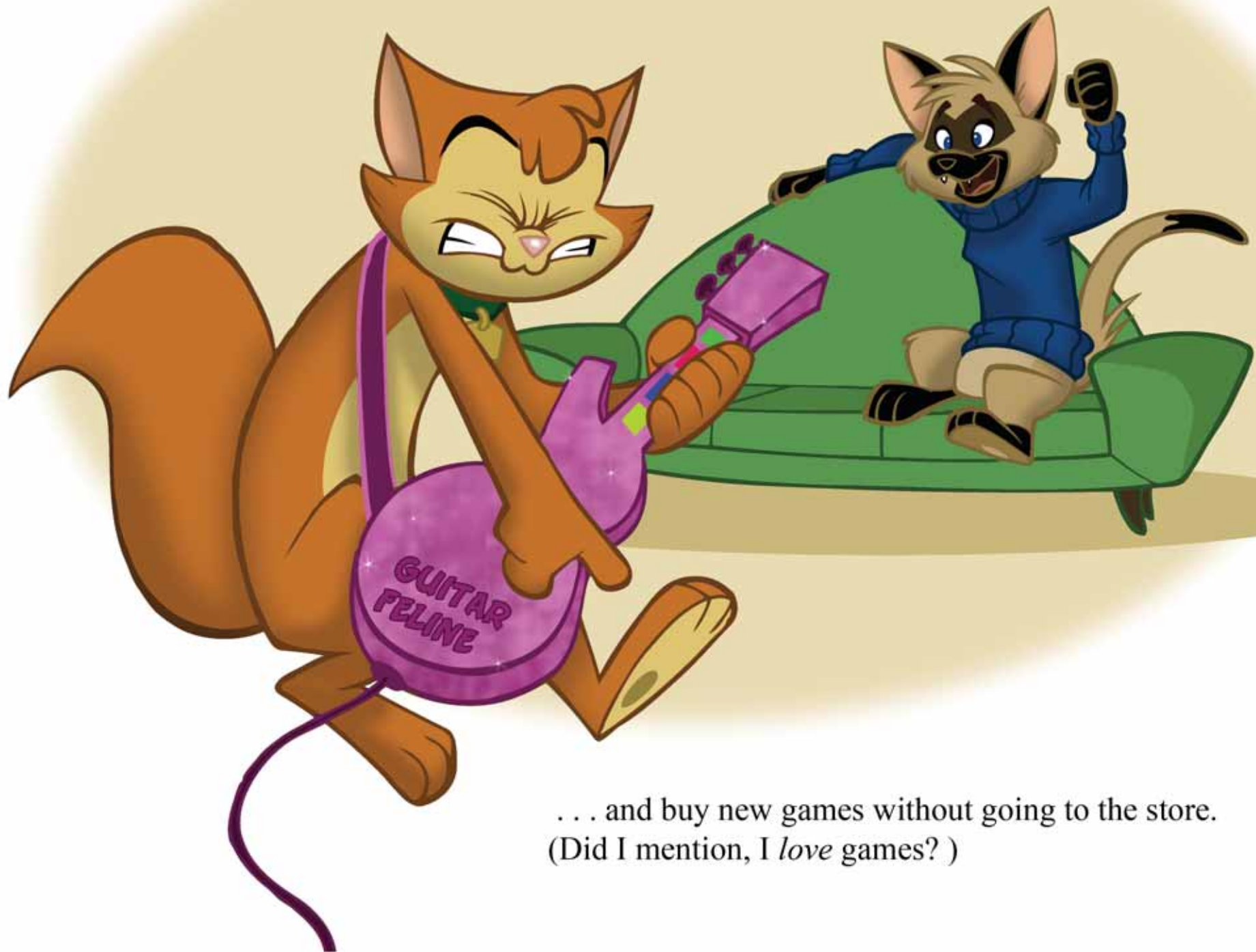
. . . and buy new games without going to the store.
(Did I mention, I *love* games?)

My friend Simon just wrote a new song.
(He's one of us Techno Cats.)

CAT-NIPPED!!!

TIRED CAT LIGHTS
FLAME... BARELY

"Hi, Faux Paw, did you get my e-vite to the party at MewTunes?" he says. "I'm going to play my new song live today."

"I'll download it right now—quick, before the party," I say.

"Great, I'll see you there."

I hop on my search engine and head for MewTunes.

Inside the Internet, my friend CommonSense is on duty, keeping things safe with his sensible steed, HorseSense.

"Hello, Common, it looks like HorseSense is being extra . . . sensible today."

BEWARE THE SPEED OF THE SUPERHIGHWAY: CROSS IN THE CROSSWALK

"Faux Paw, never, *never* put ice cream on your keyboard," he says.

I giggle. "Of course not."

HorseSense loves to say funny things like that—things you should just know without someone explaining them to you.

"And, don't forget . . . your computer's mouse does NOT like cheese!" he says.

I laugh. "Thanks for the tip, HorseSense—that's great advice! I'm on my way to the MewTunes store," I explain.

"Well, be careful, and use your common sense! Lots of peer-to-peer sites are up that way, and they can be dangerous!"

"Dangerous?" I say.   "What's peer-to-peer?"

CommonSense explains it to me. "Peer-to-peer, or P2P, means cat-to-cat—like one cat to another, or one computer to another. It's where your computer peeks into someone else's computer to copy something from it, like a game or a song. You don't know whose computer you're into or what else you might also be downloading—maybe bad stuff like a virus that could hurt your computer.

HorseSense agrees. "P2P will get you in trouble almost every time," he says.

"No problem. I know right where I'm going—just to MewTunes. g2g."

I pass the Wiki-Library.

pharmacy

And, the pharmacy.

Worlds of CatWars

TOURNAMENT THIS WEEKEND!

Hmm . . . Worlds of CatWars . . . tempting, but I *know* I don't have time for that!

I keep going, but a popup catches my eye. The HUGE cat with the giant, white teeth says, "Get Simon's new song here for FREE!"

Ooh-la-la, I love free stuff, and he has Simon's new song!

"Hmm . . . Is this safe?" I wonder. "Why don't I have to pay anything?"

"MEOW, ruff, MEOW! Absolutely safe!" barks the HUGE cat. "Don't forget, it's free—yours if you want it."

"This is just one friend to another," he says. "I like to share the best stuff I find. Simon's new song is my favorite—meow, meow, ruff!—I'm listening to it now. Go ahead and hook up!"

"Why not!"

In a snap, I download Simon's song.

Simon is amazing!

But, before I get through the song, my player quits working.

Oh, no!

"Help! Crisis! Calamity! CATASTROPHE! What do we do?"

"This must be a virus!" says CommonSense. "Someone call the Firewall department!"
He pulls out his sword and goes to battle.

The viruses spread. They're eating up Internet City!

The Firewall truck arrives in a flash, and the Fire Chief is worried. "Where did these come from? We need to know now if we're going to stop them!"

"What did you download?" says Simon.
"Oh dear . . . well . . . I downloaded . . . " I start to explain, but the Chief interrupts.
"Hey! Those are connection wires! Don't chew on those! Someone will get disconnected!"

But, before I can tell him, my computer shuts down and spits me out.

"Ouch! My computer's infected and I'm locked out! How will I explain what happened?"

Before long, Simon bursts through my door. "Hurry, Faux Paw, we need you!
We have to know what happened if we're going to find an anti-virus!"

"I don't know what happened. I just downloaded your song from that HUGE cat with giant, white teeth. Then . . . "

"You STOLE my song!" he says. "I didn't steal it. That GIGANTIC cat with the low, growling voice gave it to me . . . you know . . . peer-to-peer."

"Faux Paw, that's stealing! If everyone downloaded like that, I'd never get paid, and I couldn't make music. I'd have to do something else for work."

"I'm sorry, Simon."

"Wait!" he says. "Did you say giant, white teeth . . . "

" . . . and a low, growling voice? . . . That sounds like Kittyface!"

"Of course! Kittyface! Let's get going. We need to tell the Firewall Chief. . . but, my computer is broken. I can't get back!"

Simon opens his laptop. "No worries! We'll take my ride! Now log in."

Back online, the battle is raging.

I run to the Chief. "It's Kittyface!" I tell him. "It's a Kittyface virus!"
"Aha! I knew it!" he says.

The chief knows just what to do.

"Take that!"

"I want to be a virus fighter, toooooooooo . . . !"

The Fire Chief's anti-virus works.

Whew! That was a close one!

"Good going, Faux Paw. You saved Internet City," says CommonSense.
"Thanks. I guess your rule about peer-to-peer sharing is common sense for a reason," I say.

"I'm sorry I stole your song, Simon."
Simon is nice about it. He explains, "It's alright, Faux Paw. Just get your music and games from real stores that make sure the files are clean and that the artists get paid for their work."

Hi Kids, Here are the 3 KEEPs for Safe and Honest Downloading:

Keep Safe your Personal Files:
Don't share your music, videos, games, or pictures—especially pictures of yourself—with strangers online.

Keep Away from Doubtful Downloads:
Files from file sharing services, social networking sites, or blogs of people you don't know could have harmful files attached to them.

Keep Using Common Sense:
If it's not free in a store, it shouldn't be free online—that's stealing, and it's against the law.

iKeepSafe Pointers for Parents

Safe and Ethical Downloading for Kids and Teens

IKeepSafe hopes that this story will help kids recognize that copyright and creativity go hand in hand and that we all need to consider the high cost of sharing music, movie, or game files without paying for them. Illegal downloading robs the artists and creators of compensation for their work and limits their ability to create in the future.

Copyrighted and trademarked goods are frequently traded illegally online through peer-to-peer file-sharing programs such as Gnutella, BitTorrent, Limewire, Joost, ANts, Wares, eDonkey and others. Illegal downloading through these services, along with file-sharing through social networking profiles, blogs, and email, constitutes piracy and can expose both you and your child to legal action.

But, piracy is just one of many risks faced by kids and teens when they download illegally. For the following reasons, iKeepSafe recommends that underage children do not use peer-to-peer file-sharing services without immediate and constant parental oversight:

- Viruses and spyware: Downloading files or software can make computers vulnerable to harmful programs.
- Identity theft: File sharing can allow access to all of the files on your computer, which means that information such as bank details and personal documents can be stolen.
- Illicit content: P2P services are notorious for lacing any download with sexually graphic or violent content.
- Exposure to online strangers; Internal chat features on some file sharing services leave a child open to repeated exposure to Internet strangers, making them vulnerable to grooming, bullying, and abuse.

As a parent you can:
- Help your child understand the ethical reasons for downloading from legal and safe sites.
- Explain to your child the risks of downloading: insecure sources can make your computer vulnerable to hostile software.
- Make sure they know that file-sharing and illegal downloading of copyrighted materials is viewed as theft and can expose both you and them to legal action.
- Check your computer(s) regularly – sites logged in a computer's history or new icons on the desktop can suggest illegal activity.
- Check the desktop of your PC for any icons you don't recognize. P2P sites usually require downloading special software that often leaves an icon on your desktop.
- Identify free and legal downloading sites, suitable for your child to use. Established, trusted websites provide safe, legal downloading of music, movies, and games. These legitimate online retailers buy and sell goods online, legally.

Happy downloading—keep safe and legal!

Internet Keep Safe Coalition

iKeepSafe

ikeepsafe.org

Special Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

Teach children the importance of information ownership and copyright and that common sense will help them to keep safe their computers and their integrity.

FAUX PAW AND THE DANGEROUS DOWNLOAD

In Faux Paw's new adventure, the Web-surfing Techno Cat learns that downloading is a great way to get information . . . if it's done the right way. When using a risky file sharing program to get a new song, Faux Paw learns the hard way that illegal downloading hurts everyone, including herself!

US $18.95

ISBN: 978-0-9818982-1-6

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Faux Paw the Techno Cat® Series available at www.iKeepSafe.org

Faux Paw Goes to the Games:
Balancing Real Life with Screen Time shows children what can happen when online games interfere with real-life goals.

Faux Paw's Adventures in the Internet:
Keeping Children Safe Online teaches kids the basics of Internet safety: how to keep personal information safe, to keep away from Internet strangers, and to go to an adult for help when they see anything online that makes them uncomfortable.

Faux Paw Meets the First Lady:
How to Handle Cyber-bullying, featuring First Lady Laura Bush, teaches kids how to avoid online harassment and, when necessary, how to handle it.

iKeepSafe

The Internet Keep Safe Coalition is a broad partnership of governors, first spouses, attorneys general, law enforcement, education, medical, and health organizations dedicated to keeping children safe online and providing resources to parents and educators that will ensure the safe and healthy use of technology and the Internet.

Find video tutorials and educator resources at
www.iKeepSafe.org