

Search Engines for Children

Even if you have installed internet filters, there is no 100% guarantee that your children will not be able to access or stumble onto inappropriate content like adult or horror content that may be disturbing for children.

Help is however on hand, in the form of “safe search engines” which help children find relevant information in a safe, child-friendly setting. The information below is provided by the Media Literacy Council and it explains how the different search engines are set up.

These search engines are set up with the intention of not displaying results or images that are inappropriate for children. They are useful tools for children when they need to research something for their school work or simply to explore the internet at home.

Safe Search

(www.safesearchkids.com)

The logo for Safe Search Kids features the words 'SAFE', 'SEARCH', and 'KIDS' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'SAFE' is in orange, 'SEARCH' is in yellow, and 'KIDS' is in blue.

This search engine was the brainchild of a UK company that is dedicated to providing the best online resources for children. It uses Google’s SafeSearch technology to filter out offensive content and also removes distracting ads from search results. It is a great site for home and school use.

Unlike other Google Safe Search engines for kids, SafeSearch for Kids does not feature picture icons by search results, hence preventing the children from seeing any inappropriate images unintentionally. SafeSearch for Kids is the child friendly search engine where safe search is always 'on', powered by Google. The safe browsing feature allows your children to safely surf the web with a much lower risk of accidentally seeing illicit material.

Fact Monster

(www.factmonster.com)



Does your child need help researching an assignment for school? Fact Monster is a free online almanac, dictionary, encyclopedia and thesaurus which will help children quickly find the information they need. It is meant for children aged 8-14 years old, and is packed full of all kinds of facts and figures.

The information this site provides are classified into different subjects such as Science and Maths & Money, which facilitates the children’s learning about the subjects they are looking for. It has a Games & Quizzes section which is designed to test and help the children through having fun, and at the same time, triggering their interest towards learning.

Ask Kids (www.askkids.com)

Aimed at 6-12 year olds, Ask Kids also does a great job at finding relevant, age-appropriate content from the web. It is optimised to respond to a typical child’s keyword search and it pulls results from a database of sites that Ask.com’s editorial staff have deemed appropriate and safe for student learning.

This website not only provides children with a filtered search engine, it also provides quick links for lists of movies and games suitable for their ages. The AskKids Answers section is specially designed by experts and editors to offer trustworthy answers for common kids’ questions. These questions are further classified into different subject categories, facilitating children in their homework assignments.



Kid Rex (www.kidrex.org)

KidRex is a free and simple way to keep children away from finding sites with inappropriate content. The overall interface of KidRex is really child friendly. Everything is drawn in cartoons and there is a big colorful dinosaur that is exciting but also appropriate. The search engine is powered by Google. For the normally concerned parent, KidRex offers a Parents menu where parents can impose further safe searching.

KidsClick! (www.kidsclick.org)

KidsClick! is a site directory and search engine created and maintained by librarians, cataloguing resources that provide objective, age-appropriate information so children can understand these topics when they come up in the news. The site's administrators won't list sites that collect private information, charge a fee, are product-driven, or promote violence, hatred, or illegal activities. Children can browse by topic or use a search engine, and each site catalogued includes a description and reading level. Site features range from homework helpers to fun stuff like classic arcade games. Since the site was created and maintained by librarians, parents can rest assured that the resources provided are credible.



IPL2 for Kids (www.ipl.org)

IPL2 for Kids is a section of the huge Internet Public Library experimental resource, which is created and maintained by professors and students at library and information science programs. The site is organized by subject which allow kids to browse through with ease. It also includes an "Ask an IPL2 Librarian" tab which enables kids to ask librarians online for help directly.

KidzSearch (www.KidzSearch.com)

KidzSearch provides Google "strict" search results and is not dependent on any computer, cookie or browser settings. Further, it has a "banned keyword" system which will not return results if the banned keyword is detected. This adds further protection to the Google SafeSearch engine which KidzSearch relies on.

