



Windows of Opportunity: The Rewards of **Enlightened Computer & Internet Choices**

The computer is a tool of inestimable value for educating our children, bringing our families together, and building the Kingdom of God.

- Gordon B. Hinckley



The Thirty-Minute Solution



In **thirty minutes** or less you can significantly impact the quality of **Computer and Internet** materials available in your home!

In thirty minutes you can...

- ⌚ **Purchase a high-quality Internet filtering program** that will prevent your children from accessing inappropriate material inadvertently. (Visit www.filterreview.com to learn about filtering products available).
- ⌚ **Learn how to bookmark “Favorites”** sites in your Internet browser. (In Internet Explorer, click “Favorites” at the top of your screen). Your ten-year-old can probably help if you are confused. Create a folder for each member of your family, and add favorite websites as you discover them (see suggestions below). Your children will have immediate access to great websites any time they are “bored” or you are busy.
- ⌚ **Learn how Instant Messaging and Chatting works.** (Ask your teenager how). You can conduct long-distance family reunions and Sunday dinner conversations with family members all over the world, and it doesn’t cost anything! No wonder your teens are addicted!
- ⌚ **Set up a family website** that is password-protected so you can share family news, photos, stories, recipes and calendars online. www.myfamily.com is one example of a vendor that provides an automated service for a reasonable fee.
- ⌚ **Subscribe to a printed publication** or e-mail newsletter that will help you discover great computer and Internet resources. www.childrensoftware.com is just one example.
- ⌚ **Check book orders** from your public library or your child’s school to find discounted educational software.

- ⌚ **Start a “software club”** with friends or family members to circulate “hand-me-down” computer software that you no longer use, and share it with younger cousins or friends. (Read the licensing material first. Most software can only be installed legally on one computer at a time).
- ⌚ **Try your public library** to find computer software and educational programs that you can use free of charge. Libraries purchase special licensing rights to these programs. Be sure to “uninstall” before you return the disk to the library.

FIVE TO TRY:

Five great websites that help you access
the best the Internet has to offer

- www.lds.org - For an Internet resource that brings the light of truth into the home, you need look no further than the official website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. You can print articles from the church magazines, read the scriptures (or have them read to you), print gospel-related pictures, plan a visit to a church site, listen to a conference address, order church materials, find a job, or access your own stake or ward website.
- [ALSC](http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/greatwebsites/greatwebsiteskids.htm) - Whom could you trust for great children’s educational material if not a librarian? The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) maintains a “Great Websites for Children” with links to hundreds of superb educational websites, organized by category. A must for parents who want children to get the best from the Internet:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/greatwebsites/greatwebsiteskids.htm>
- [ContentWatch](http://www.contentwatch.com/learn_center/family_safe_sites.php) reviews and maintains a list of web sites that promote family and community values in fun and entertaining ways. All of these sites have been reviewed by ContentWatch and approved for viewing of all ages.
http://www.contentwatch.com/learn_center/family_safe_sites.php
- <http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/> includes the Internet Public Library’s links to sites with content geared toward children and teens.
- <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/tvteachers.htm> Visit this link and click “Browse by Subject” to view dozens of recommended internet sites—everything from Arts to Health and Fitness. TeacherSource also includes lesson plans that provide educational content to connect with current PBS television offerings. With some adaptations for use in the home, you can teach your children about everything from Tsunamis to Tomatoes.

Additional Suggestions:

- <http://www.saferchild.org/interold.htm> Internet site containing links for older children and teens reviewed by saferchild.org.
- www.thinkquest.org contains a library of nearly 6,000 educational websites, all created by children and teenagers.
- <http://www.superkids.com/> includes ratings of educational children's software.
- <http://www.educational-software-directory.net/> Is an annotated directory of educational and technology resources. Includes links to reviews, publishers, organizations, educational software and more.