

# Longfellow Home Cool Tool

## Using the computer

*Expectation:* Be Respectful, Be Safe

*Purpose of the lesson? Why it is important:*

1. To teach children to use computers properly.
2. To teach children to use computers safely.

*Teaching Examples:* *The following presents situations that your child might find himself in. Use these examples to discuss with your child how to make good decisions when using a computer.*

- Your child is using the computer and became thirsty. Your child went to the kitchen to get a drink and brought it back into the room in which the computer was in. The drink was set down near the computer. Talk to your child about what could happen if the drink spilled onto the computer equipment. How long does it take to repair a computer? How much does it cost? Ask your child if it is worth taking a chance that it might spill.
- Your child is using your home computer to look up information on Japan. As your child is reading some interesting information an instant message appears from somebody that your child does not know. Tell your child your expectations about responding to instant messages from strangers. Talk about why you have these expectations. Discuss your expectations for using the Internet in general (ex. which sites your child is allowed to use, how long can your child stay on the computer at a given time). Discuss the fact that using the computer is a privilege. Let your child know that you have to trust him/her to follow your expectations in order to have the privilege of using the computer independently.

*Kid Activities/Role Plays:*

1. Discuss your consequences for misusing a computer.
2. Spend some time on the computer with your child to model for him/her appropriate computer use.

*Follow-up/Reinforcement Activities:*

1. Remind your child of your expectations before he/she uses the computer.
2. Thank your child for following your expectations for being safe on the computer.