Fun and educational websites to assist your child

The worldwide web offers a range of engaging educational websites to help children strengthen and consolidate their literacy, numeracy and other knowledge. Parents can work with their children to extend their understanding of concepts or simply spend time completing fun, interactive activities with them.

Ambarvale Public School’s Website:
http://www.ambarvale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

DEC Student Portal
Web address: http://student.det.nsw.edu.au

Cyber Safety Week

Schools A to Z

Websites to assist your child with Literacy and Numeracy

BBC Skillwise - Words
Web address: http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/
Area: ENGLISH - general
Age group: Middle and upper primary and lower secondary
Synopsis: This site was developed to help adults improve their reading, writing skills but is also useful for middle to upper primary and lower secondary students. It provides fact sheets, worksheets, quizzes and games in: grammar, spelling, reading, writing, listening and vocabulary.

MeeGenius
Web address: http://www.meegenius.com
Area: ENGLISH - reading
Age group: lower primary
Synopsis: ABC Reading Eggs makes learning to read interesting and engaging for kids, with great online reading games and activities. Children love the games, songs, golden eggs and other rewards which, along with feeling proud of their reading, really motivate children to keep exploring and learning. Registration is required however there is a free trial period.

Starfall
Web Address: http://www.starfall.com/
Area: ENGLISH - reading
Age group: lower primary
Synopsis: A free website to teach lower primary students to read with phonics. Exciting phonics games and online interactive books.

ABC Reading Eggs
Web address: http://readingeggs.com.au
Area: ENGLISH - reading
Age group: lower primary
Synopsis: ABC Reading Eggs makes learning to read interesting and engaging for kids, with great online reading games and activities. Children love the games, songs, golden eggs and other rewards which, along with feeling proud of their reading, really motivate children to keep exploring and learning. Registration is required however there is a free trial period.

BBC KS2 Bitesize
Web address: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/english/
Area: ENGLISH - general
Age group: lower and middle primary
Synopsis: This website provides games and activities in: reading, writing, spelling and grammar.

Writing Fun
Web address: http://www.writingfun.com
Area: ENGLISH - writing
Age group: primary
Synopsis: An interactive writing help site with downloads for off-line use. Writing Fun explains the types of text commonly written in schools with printable organisers and examples showing text structures, grammatical features and publishing ideas. Writing text types covered includes: reports, procedures, explanations, expositions (persuasion, point of view), discussions, narratives, recounts, descriptions, poetry, responses (inc. reviews), letters, invitations, news articles and emails.

Woodlands Junior School - UK
Web address: http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/literacy/index.htm
Area: ENGLISH - general
Age group: primary
Synopsis: This site provides activities and games in: words and spelling, grammar, punctuation and writing.

Spelling City
Web address: http://www.spellingcity.com/
Area: ENGLISH - Spelling
Age group: All ages
Synopsis: This site allows you to enter your child's spelling words to help them enjoy their spelling homework and achieve a perfect score in spelling test. With spelling and word games to play online, SpellingCity.com makes practicing for spelling tests fun and exciting for kids. Children can practice their weekly spelling and take their spelling tests online. They can also play spelling and vocabulary games.

Rosie and Wallace story books
Area: ENGLISH
Age group: Years 1-3
Synopsis: This series of 30 virtual books contains many frequently used sight words and is sequenced from simple text and repetitive sentence patterns to longer stories with more complex sentence structures. The books contain recounts and stories of Rosie the rosella and her best friend Wallace the wallaby. The books have been written to encourage and support students use of picture and context clues and letter sound knowledge.

Mathematics
Count me in too
Area: MATHS
Age group: middle to upper primary and lower secondary
Synopsis: "Count Me In Too" is a project supporting the K-6 mathematics syllabus. The learning framework covers the Number strand of the Mathematics syllabus with fun interactive games.

BBC Skillwise - Numbers
Web address: http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/numbers
Area: MATHS
Age group: middle to upper primary and lower secondary
Synopsis: This site was developed to help adults improve their numeracy; however, it is also useful for middle to upper primary and lower secondary students. It includes fact sheets, worksheets, quizzes and games in the areas of: whole numbers, measures, shape and space, fractions, decimals and percentages and handling data.

BBC KS2 Bitesize
Web address: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/english/
Area: MATHS - general
Age group: lower and middle primary
Synopsis: This website provides games and activities in: numbers, shape, space and measures and handling data.

Woodlands Junior School - UK
Web address: http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/index.html
**Area:** MATHS - general  
**Age group:** Primary  
**Synopsis:** This site provides activities and games in: numbers, space and shape, data and probability, measure skills and maths investigations.

**Math Playground**  
**Web address:** [http://mathplayground.com/](http://mathplayground.com/)  
**Area:** MATHS - general  
**Age group:** Prep-9  
**Synopsis:** An action-packed site for primary and middle school students. Children can have fun while practicing maths skills by playing interactive games, solving word problems and logic puzzles and viewing maths videos.

**Moshi Monsters**  
**Web address:** [http://www.moshimonsters.com/](http://www.moshimonsters.com/)  
**Area:** MATHS - general  
**Age group:** lower and middle primary  
**Synopsis:** In this fun, interactive game, children can adopt a monster within Monstro City, and look after him by solving puzzles and completing games to earn Rox. Rox are used to buy food, items for their monster and decorations for their home.
Here are eight easy ways to help your kids stay out of trouble in cyberspace.

1. **Keep computers out in the open**
   Your child may think twice about looking at inappropriate websites and won't be able to chat to their friends all night while you think they are doing their homework.

2. **Mind your business**
   Remind your child to keep information such as their name, address, phone number, school and even your credit card number to themselves. When signing up to a chat room, they should use a screen name that is a nickname and not easy to work out. The same goes for choosing passwords – don't make them easy to figure out. If your child is going to put photos on the internet, ensure they don't show them wearing their school uniform – this can be enough to identify your child's school. Also ensure that any photos are not the type that would attract unwanted attention from strangers.

3. **Just because it's on the internet, it doesn't mean it's true**
   Make sure your child uses multiple sources for research, and is careful not to plagiarise.

4. **Stranger danger is online, too**
   Ensure your child never organises to meet up with any strangers they have met online. If they really want to meet up, encourage them to talk to you about it first and insist on going along with them. Remind your children to also be wary opening emails from strangers. They could contain spam (online junk mail), a virus (which will harm your computer), or be from a stranger looking for trouble.

5. **Get a filter**
   Internet filters can help block inappropriate sites for children. None are completely reliable and it's best if you talk about what websites are appropriate with your child so they understand and make the right choice on their own.

6. **Encourage your child to talk with you about their online experiences – good and bad**
   This will make it easier for them if they see something inappropriate or are emailed something unsuitable. If they are embarrassed to tell you, persuade them to at least tell a teacher or another trusted adult.

7. **Good manners also exist online**
   Talk about this with your child and it may lead to a decline in bullying behaviour, not to mention the many disagreements that children have with each other.

8. **Forever is a long time**
   A lot of blogs and websites maintain information as part of cyberspace forever. By publishing without thinking of the future, your child's innocent work online may be something that comes up later on and may negatively impact their career and personal life.

**Danger signs**

- Your child constantly sits on the computer in chat rooms or instant messaging, from straight after school to very late at night.
- Your child begins showing unexplained money or items that come from "a friend you don't know".
- Your child starts being secretive about what they are doing online – this could include anything from minimising screens as you walk past, to not letting you see their blogs/chat/social media sites.