

Consult the Cat

by Shannon Roy, Editor

The Kansas Reads to Children Program in November has a safety theme this year. There are good resources on the Internet that can easily be used by parents and children to increase safety.



Cats rarely admit that they have much in common with the humans who care for them. That the cats are the superior of the two species is very evident, at least to the cats. And human beings have been known to ruefully agree that the cat MUST be superior, since he has an easy life and an absolute self-confidence.

But one of the things the two species definitely do have in common is concern for their offspring. If you don't give a mother cat a place of absolute safety for her kittens, she will move them or even hide them. The Cat has watched in amazement as a mother cat faced down a big dog to protect her son, even though the son had grown into a very opinionated teenager and his siblings had left home.

Human parents are also concerned for their children. And it does sometimes seem to them that the threats to their children have proliferated in the 21st century. In some ways, they have. But it is also true that there is a much more pervasive awareness of the need to protect children and stronger laws to make children safer.

It really isn't hard to find information on safety for children on the Internet. If you google "Safety for Children" or "Internet Safety for Children," you will certainly pull up resources. The Cat rather liked the following sites:

There is a wealth of safety tips and checklists from the Home Safety Council at:

http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/safetyguide.aspx

There is a good article on car safety for children at:

http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/health_advice/facts/childrencar.htm

There is a good guide to Internet Safety Awareness for both Parents and Children at:

http://www.internet-safety.org/childrens_awareness.htm

There is a very good article on Internet Safety for Children at:

<http://childrentoday.com/resources/articles/internetsafety.htm>

The material in these sites could be very easily turned into good library programs for both children and adults.

The Cat has some sympathy with the dilemmas of modern human parents. But she happened to be a fortunate kitten. She can remember being nursed, snuggled, cuddled, played with and vigorously socialized. The Cat strongly affirms that nothing gives children or kittens more real safety or a better chance of happiness than time and affection from loving parents. Such parents certainly deserve a purr from the

Cat