

MySpace Profile

To determine whether your child has a MySpace account, you will need to open the Internet and go to www.myspace.com. Once you've done this, you will enter into a MySpace log on screen. At this point it's going to be required that you sign up for a MySpace account which you can do in the top right-hand corner or right under the login information you can click "Sign Up!".

Now, in the alternative, if you already know your child has an account, you can simply type in their email and password and look through their page that way. If you have to create your own, click "sign up" it's going to ask you for some personal information. These fields have to be filled out and you should note that it does ask for a date of birth and because MySpace has a 14 year old requirement to even have a profile, you'll need to make sure and use a year that is appropriate so you can open this up. Once you've done that, type the information in under email and password and click "log in."

After you've logged in, you will open basically your own profile page. It will ask you to create a few things; you can skip all of that and go to the search option here. Do not choose the search window right above that – it's not terribly useful and will just cause you additional problems. So choose the search that is right between "Browse" and "Invite" and once you've done so it will take you to a page that will allow you to type in your child's name, you can use a display name if you happen to know they have a specific nickname they prefer to use or an email account. Type in any of those in order to try to "find a friend" which is what you are attempting to do.

I'll use Kathy Meyer again here – as we did in Facebook. And you'll see that there are actually 79 Kathy Meyers in MySpace. Now MySpace is a little different and it does allow you, if the profile is not set to private, to see some information. Here, you can see a very good picture, very clear, very easy to pick out of a crowd if you knew to go to Barnegat, New Jersey. You know she's 29 years old. And there's actually enough information right here to probably give you a good start in contacting this person.

If you go back, you can scroll through and look at the others and I encourage you to do this for any variation of your child's name. Check whatever they may be inclined to use. If you don't find anything under a basic name, but you do know their email address(es) – choose the email option and go ahead and type those in. Again we'll use Kathy Meyer, this time we'll do @Yahoo.com. See if anything pops up there. We don't have anybody with that particular name, but don't forget to check hotmail.com, gmail.com, if you have a local Internet provider – oh we did hit one there. It's very simple once you get to this search window, it just takes a couple minutes to get through and log on as a user, but it's worth the effort, so go ahead and try that. Once you are finished be sure to sign out. Ask your children, point blank, -do you have an account?-...if you do, we need to go through it together. Or if you find one on your own – explain that there is a lot of information that can be shared or viewed that is not safe for your children.