Activating MySpace privacy features:

1. Sign into MySpace.com using your child’s login and password
2. Click “Account Settings” and then the “Change Settings” link next to “Privacy Settings”
4. Under “Privacy Settings,” select “Comments—approve before posting” and “Hide Online Now”
5. To block a user, visit that user’s profile and click “Block User”

MySpace safety tips for parents:

• Talk to your kids about why they use MySpace, how they communicate with others, and how they represent themselves on MySpace
• Kids shouldn't lie about how old they are. MySpace members must be 14 years of age or older. MySpace takes extra precautions to protect their younger members, and they are not able to do so if younger members do not identify themselves as such. MySpace will delete users whom they find to be younger than 14, or those misrepresenting their age.
• MySpace is a public space. Members shouldn't post anything they wouldn't want the world to know (e.g., their phone number, address, IM screen name, or specific whereabouts). Tell your children they should avoid posting anything that would make it easy for a stranger to find them, such as their local hangouts.
• Remind them not to post anything that could embarrass them later or expose them to danger. Although MySpace is public, teens sometimes think that adults can't see what they post. Tell them that they shouldn't post photos or information they wouldn't want you or other adults to see.
• People aren't always who they say they are. Ask your children to be careful about adding strangers to their friends list. It's fun to connect with new MySpace friends from all over the world, but members should be cautious when communicating with people they don't know. They should talk to you if they want to meet an online friend in person, and if you think it's safe, any meeting should take place in public and with friends or a trusted adult present.
• Harassment, hate speech, and inappropriate content should be reported. If your kids encounter inappropriate behavior, let them know that they can talk to you or report it to MySpace or the authorities.

(Adapted from http://www.myspace.com/Modules/Common/Pages/SafetyTips.aspx#)
Canceling a MySpace account:

• First log in with your child’s e-mail address and password. (If you don’t know your child’s password, you can retrieve it by clicking the “Forgot your password?” link in the Member Login box. The password will be sent to the e-mail address used to log into MySpace.)
• Once you’ve logged in, click “Account Settings.” Next, click “Cancel Account.” (The link is near the top of the “Change Account Settings” page.)
• You will now see the “Cancel MySpace Account” page. Click the “Cancel My Account” button. You will be asked to enter a reason for canceling the MySpace account. You may skip this if you wish. Click “Cancel My Account.”
• An e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address of the user. In the e-mail, there will be a link to confirm the cancellation of the account. You must click on the link to permanently cancel the account. The account is not cancelled until you receive a confirmation e-mail of the cancellation.

Web resources for parents:

Information on monitoring software:
• http://www.software4parents.com
Software you can purchase to help monitor what sites your child can access on their home computer
• http://www.k9webprotection.com
More software that can be used to limit the sites your child can access on the computer;
Internet protection from Blue Coat
Information about online safety:
• http://www.NetSmartz.org
Helps you keep teens safer on the Internet by teaching you what to look for and what to be aware of
• http://www.WiredSafety.org
More online safety and information; also offers help groups and support for parents
• http://www.GetNetWise.org
More information on how to keep children safe online
• http://www.SafeTeens.com
Information on how to be safe online; a good resource for both parents and students; also available in Spanish
• http://www.BlogSafety.com
Explains how to blog safely; social networking for parents and students