



Parents' Manual





What is Sifaka World?

Sifaka World is a fun-filled, wildlife-themed virtual world featuring games, activities and animal characters designed especially for children ages 5 to 12. Your child travels the world as an animal avatar. Choices range from a fun-loving fox or adorable chipmunk to a high-energy cheetah. Children choose fictional names for their avatars and only know each other in Sifaka World through their animal avatars with made-up names.

Sifaka World takes pride in its real-world impact. Sifaka World educates children about animal conservation and donates a percentage of membership dollars to wildlife conservation. Currently all donations benefit the Cheetah Conservation Fund (www.cheetah.org).

This winter Sifaka World will release an interactive food and nutrition program that will make healthy eating and cooking fun for the whole family.

Is Sifaka World safe for my child?

Your child's safety is of utmost importance to us. Please take a moment to read the information provided in this section.

Choose Safe Chat or Open Chat for Your Child



Safe Chat

In Safe Chat, children cannot create or receive typed comments. In Safe Chat the ONLY option is to select from a predefined drop down menu of questions, actions, statements, and emotions. Emotions are pictorial, such as a smiley face.



Open Chat

Open Chat must be approved by the adult in charge of the child's membership. Open Chat allows kids to write very short messages to other kids who are also approved by their parents for Open Chat. Sifaka World maintains control over what sort of information can be given through Open Chat. For example, numbers and profanity cannot be typed in the chat box. Sifaka World does not tolerate swearing, teasing, or bullying. Talk about drugs, alcohol, violence, or sex is not permitted, and we will not tolerate discriminatory or racist comments. Exchange of personal information is not allowed. **Any-one who misuses Open Chat is banned from Sifaka World.**

Additional Safety Controls

While socializing in Sifaka World kids have the ability to **Add** buddies, visit another avatar's **Home**, **Ignore** other users, and **Report** bad behavior. We encourage you to review these controls with your child. The image below is what you and your child will see on the screen when you click on another child's avatar.



Helping Your Child Understand How to Safely Use the Internet

Please help to protect your child's privacy by reminding him/her to never provide personal information on any website without your specific permission. We encourage you to visit the site, GetNetWise at www.getnewwise.org and look through the "Kids Safety" section together. Your efforts to instill responsible information practices will help steer your children to age-appropriate sites and will go a long way toward ensuring that your children have enriching experiences online.

What does Sifaka mean?

Sifakas are a type of lemur. They are medium-sized animals, weighing somewhere between 9 and 13 pounds. Their fur is long and silky and ranges in color from off-white to very dark brown. Some people call Sifaka Lemurs dancing lemurs because of their characteristic bipedal sideways hopping movements. As with all lemurs, Sifakas are found only on the island of Madagascar.

What will my child learn in Sifaka World?

We are happy to report that opportunities for learning are everywhere in Sifaka World!

Geography A friendly albatross bird who runs "Albatross Air" flies your child's animal avatar from place to place. From the moment your child boards Albatross Air s/he will learn about geography. One parent recently reported that after a couple of hours in Sifaka World her four-year-old child had

already learned the names and locations of the continents.

Ecosystems Each of the Sifaka regions features appropriate ecosystems, from the South American rainforests to the beaches of Madagascar. Sifaka in-world animals live in their natural habitats. For example, pandas stand peacefully under beautiful blooming cherry blossom trees in Asia while koalas hang happily among the eucalyptus trees in Australia.

Culture Think of Sifaka World as your child's worldwide tour guide! Rather than visiting totally imaginary, made up places, children get a sense of the lifestyles and habits of the actual cultures that exist in communities around the world.

Life Skills Children provide their animal avatars with food and shelter. If they don't feed their avatars properly their heart meters go down. A well-fed avatar has a high-energy heart meter and does well in Sifaka activity challenges. For example, this winter, children will be challenged to guide their avatars safely through an arctic storm. Without proper clothing, food, and a compass, the journey cannot be made.

Conservation One of our primary missions here in Sifaka World is to promote animal conservation. Children who visit the Sifaka World website have access to our blog, which provides information about endangered animals in general, and more specifically, about Cheetahs and the Cheetah Conservation Foundation (CCF). In Sifaka World kids can take an active role in promoting animal conservation and can see how their efforts impact the world around them.

Social Skills One of the most exciting things for kids about being in Sifaka World is engaging in games and other activities with their buddies. Buddies can be their real world friends and kids from different towns, states, and even countries. Your child has full control over who becomes his/her buddy, and can easily limit buddies to real life friends. Remember that kids know each other as their animal avatar characters with each child's avatar having a fictional name.

Computer Skills By participating in a range of activities in Sifaka World, kids gain valuable computer skills through keyboarding and mousing. For younger children, these activities also help promote excellent fine motor skills.

Cooking and Nutrition Our most recent addition to Sifaka World is Chef Holmes, who promotes fun and healthy eating through games and activities for kids and their avatars. Starting in December 2009, don't miss chatting with Chef Holmes via our blog. Click "Blog" at the top of our Sifaka World home page.

How do we get started?

There are two levels of membership—free and paid. For either level you will need to click "Play Now" on the homepage and then "Sign Up" on the site's entry page.

Free membership will allow you to get a feel for Sifaka World, but only paid memberships allow access to all the fun!

To upgrade from a free account click “Members” at the top of our home page and you will be given a choice of payment plans.

Need More Help in Navigating Sifaka World?

Don't forget the “HELP” Tab at the top of our home page. This includes frequently asked questions and a simple downloadable User Guide.

See you in the treetops!