

INTERNET SAFETY

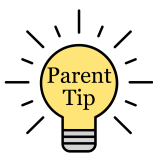
Tips and Resources for Parents

Internet safety is more than a one time do's and don'ts conversation. Teaching your kids to navigate the internet safely is much like teaching them to drive a car. Parents talk about driving, model safe driving, and practice safe driving with them before they ever hand over the keys. Before you hand over the "keys" to the internet, here are some safety tips and suggestions for talking, modeling, and practicing online safety.

First things first, talk with your kids and learn about the apps and websites they use. The more you know, the more comfortable you will be with what they are doing online and know where the dangers of each app and website are. You will also be more prepared to show them how to use the apps safely and how to respond to a potentially dangerous situation.

Safety Rules for Elementary School Ages Kids

- Safety Rule #1-Do not talk to strangers online
 - Remember the stranger danger rule-If someone you don't know is trying to talk to you online, treat them just like a stranger in real life- don't talk to them!
 - What's the best way to show a person online you do not want to talk to them online? Ignore them, ghost them, or block them!
 - Don't try to trick the tricky person with fake information!
 - The Stranger Danger rule says don't talk to strangers; not don't talk to strangers unless you want to give them fake information.
 - Giving fake information is still talking to them, and it is encouraging that person to keep commuting with you.

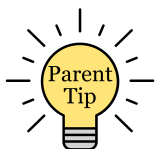
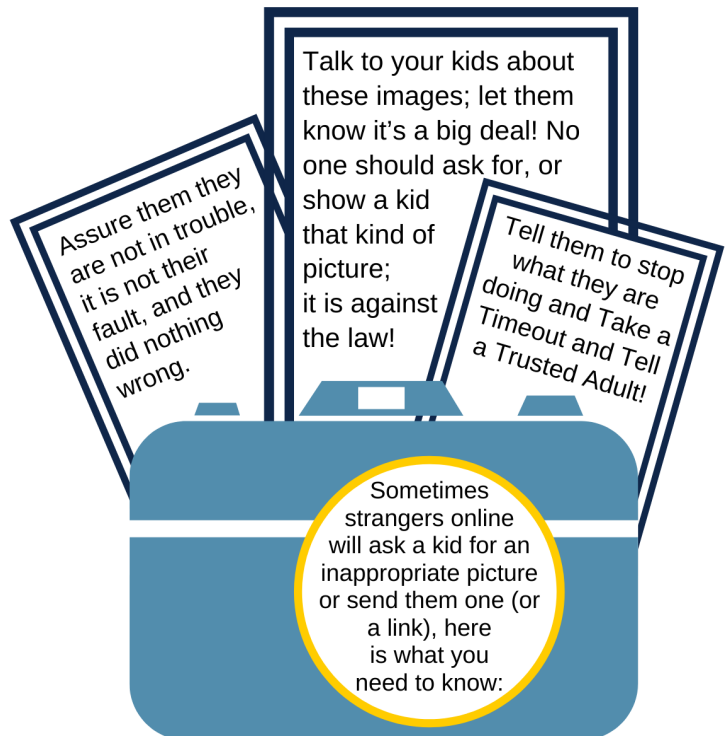


"What if" games are a great way to talk about different scenarios online and how to stay safe; it also reinforces the stranger danger rule! [Click here](#) or visit our website to get started with "some what if?" questions.

INTERNET SAFETY

Elementary

- Safety Rule #2- Do not share any personal information
 - Examples of personal information
 - Name, address, phone number, birthday, parents name, screen name or user ID
 - Where you go to school, your teachers' name, where your parents work, your sports team or extracurricular group memberships
 - Don't forget about personal information in your pictures like school or work ID or logo wear; and even posters on the wall of your sports team or school
 - Pictures are considered personal information
 - Image searches can be used to find other images and personal information
 - Digital images have EXIF data attached to them. If location services are on, you are sharing your location and other personal information like your user ID, and even the device IP address in some cases!
 - Information is like a puzzle piece; one piece may not mean much, but a lot of pieces will reveal a whole picture!

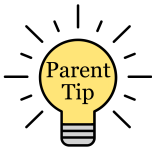


When it comes to personal information, model the online safety behavior you want to see in your kids. Keep your accounts, passwords, and usernames private with no identifying information. Take advantage of your privacy settings on your devices!

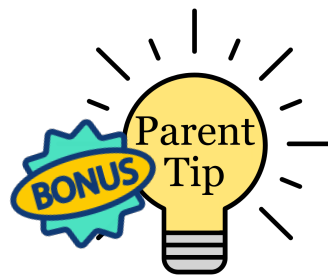
INTERNET SAFETY

Elementary

- Safety Rule #3- Tell a trusted adult
 - Always tell a trusted adult if you have a question, a funny feeling about something, or if something is happening that you know is not allowed or unsafe.
 - A trusted adult is an adult in your life that care about you and wants you to be safe. That could be a family member like a parent, aunt, uncle, or grandparent. A trusted adult can also be a coach, teacher, school counselor, neighbor, or group leader.
 - If that trusted adult doesn't know the answer they and you can find the right person who does know!



Think about the images you post and the information you are giving away when you post about your kids. The same dangers exist for parents when images are posted: you lose control of the image, it's public and permanent, and may belong to the site owner depending on where you are posting it.



Ask your kids permission to post *their* pictures on *your* social media pages. Firstly, it's a good heads up that you are posting something about them. Secondly, it teaches them autonomy; that they are in control of their physical AND virtual self. If they can say no to you, they can say to peers or strangers online!

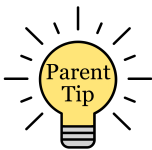
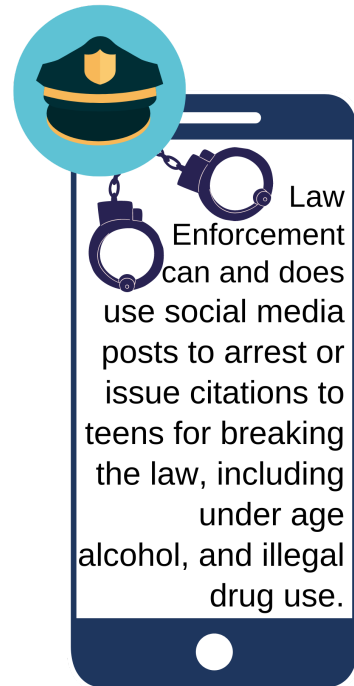
INTERNET SAFETY

Middle and High School

The decisions we make and what we do online directly impacts our real lives. The more you use the internet, social media, and play games, the more information you share-knowingly and unknowingly. Your online profile is a reflection of who you are in real life, and you can face real consequences for what is posted and shared online. Here are a few safety rules and suggestions you can use when you are on the internet to ensure you are using the internet as safely as possible.

- Safety Rule #1- Everything on the internet is PUBLIC AND PERMANENT

- It's public- you have no control over what you post or share once you send it. Anyone can do whatever they want to with it.
- It's permanent- as long as the internet exists, what you post and share is out there and can be found.
 - Consequences kids have faced include lost scholarships, jobs, internships because of what schools and employers have found.



Take advantage of the free parental controls; it's the "restricted license" stage of using the internet. Parental controls on personal devices are free and can be pass code protected. Your wireless carrier has free controls that can block content and limit time. Your wireless router has a lot of free options to control content, time, and who can access your internet. (It will be your new best friend.)

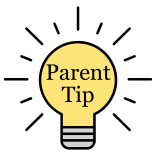
- Safety Rule #2- Do no share personal information

- In addition to not sharing personal information with strangers, it is equally important not to share personal information, passwords and login information, with friends or other people you know like romantic partners.

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Middle and High School

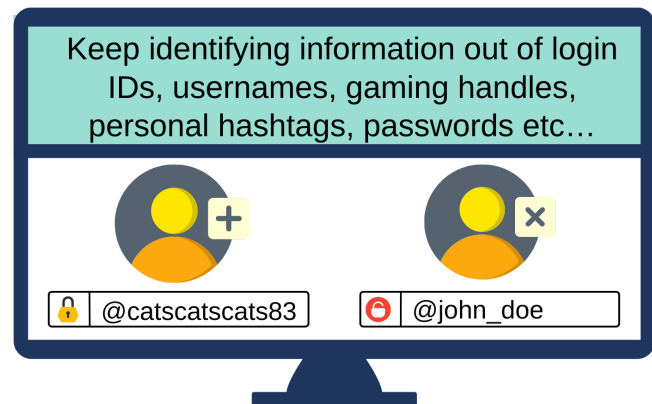
- If a friend logs on to your account and does something inappropriate or illegal, you, the account owner, can be held responsible.
 - That includes being banned from the app, school consequences, and legal consequences
 - Whether it was intended as a practical joke or purposely malicious, the consequences are the same.
- Keep your password and id recovery information with a trusted adult.



Set up ground rules and stick to them. Clearly outline your expectations, include things like sharing information, posting and sharing images, even time limits, and acceptable websites and apps.

- **Safety Rule #3- Keep your identity hidden**

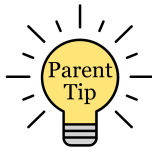
- It provides safety from online predators and minimizes the chances of identity theft.
- Location services
 - They are on by default. If you do not turn them off either in the device settings, or in each app, you are forecasting your location!
 - EXIF data is attached to every image taken on a device. It is usually scrubbed when it is uploaded to an app, but it can be stored by the app itself.
 - Airdropping images will share EXIF data if location services are on.



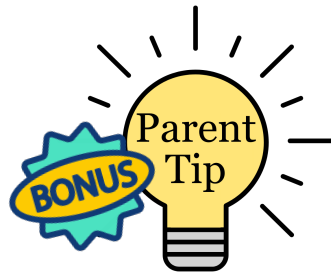
INTERNET SAFETY

Middle and High School

- Privacy Settings
 - These are also settings that you need to change, and periodically update in each app and on your phone
 - Make sure your internet connection is private, with a VPN for example.
- Be careful about what you download and what you are agreeing to when you click accept.
 - Some social media apps are asking for access to contacts only, but some ask for access to EVERYTHING on your phone!



Keep all technology in common places, like kitchens, livingrooms, dens, or home offices. Do not allow devices in bedrooms. Fact: Greenville County School chromebooks are monitored 24 hours a day and there is activity reported 24 hours a day. Give your kids a tech break by keeping it out of their bedrooms!



The first time your kids tell you about something dangerous that happened online can be a scary situation. Stay calm, remember it's scary for them also. React like they are telling you something that happened in real life: listen to them, believe them, and support them. Then, discuss your next steps.

