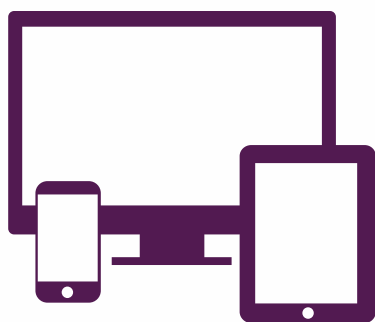




KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE SEVEN TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Nothing is more effective than parental supervision, involvement and ongoing communication, regardless of a child's age.



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1. **Encourage children to listen to their instincts.** If something online feels wrong or unsafe (chat rooms, websites, etc.), leave!
2. **Remind youth to refrain from talking to strangers online**-never give personal information through an online profile such as your name, address, school name or city. Additionally, never arrange to meet someone without talking to an adult first.
3. **Set time limits for electronics use.** The lengths of time spent on the electronic devices as well as the time of day are factors to consider.
4. **Take advantage of blocking/filtering programs**, a few great ones to check out in the app store are NetSanity, Net Nanny and OurPact.
5. **Spend time online with children** and familiarize yourself with the social media/apps/gaming sites they are interested in. Communicate with your child what you consider appropriate material.
6. **Advocate for the transfer of appropriate messages, pictures and videos only.** Teach children to end communication and contact a trusted adult if inappropriate material is sent .
7. **Instruct children to report inappropriate activity.** Suggest trusting adults that children may contact if inappropriate activity occurs while away from home. Examples: school resource officer, local law enforcement agency or the national reporting site, www.cybertipline.com

