



PARENTS AND EDUCATORS TIP CARD

Children are being exposed to technology increasingly each day and at even younger ages than before. Often these children also have a better understanding of how technology works than adults and parents. In order for children to be safe online and to make safe and smart choices with their technology, it requires the adults in their lives to remind them about practicing healthy cybersecurity hygiene and help them as they learn the advantages and disadvantages of technology and the Internet.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Seventy-four percent of parents** admit to not knowing about their children's online behavior, but 46 percent of youth say they would change their online behavior if their parents were paying attention.¹
- **Parents of teens are notably less likely** than parents of younger children age six to nine to say they monitor technology usage very closely.²
- Seven in ten young people are victims of cyberbullying and **37 percent experience cyberbullying** on a frequent basis.³
- More than **50 percent of sexual exploitation victims** are between the ages of 12 and 15⁴

SIMPLE TIPS FOR PROTECTING KIDS

- Create an open and honest environment with kids.
- Start conversations regularly about practicing online safety.
- Emphasize the concept of credibility to teens: not everything they see on the Internet is true and people on the Internet may not be who they appear to be.
- Watch for changes in behavior - if your child suddenly avoids the computer, it may be a sign they are being bullied online.
- Review security settings and privacy policies for the websites kids frequent. These settings are frequently updated so check back regularly.
- Make sure mobile devices are secure. Use PINs and passwords, only install apps from trusted sources, and understand the privacy settings and permissions for all apps.

¹ McAfee Digital Deception Study 2013

² Parenting in the Digital Age: How Parents Weigh the Potential Benefits and Harms of Their Children's Technology Use, <https://www.fosi.org/policy-research/parenting-digital-age/>, 2014

³ Ditch the Label Annual Cyberbullying Survey 2013 Cyberbullying

⁴ Teaching teens safety on the Internet, <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/17019016/teaching-teens-safety-on-the-internet>, 2012



RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

US-CERT.gov

The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) has numerous tips and resources on topics like choosing and protecting passwords, email attachments, and safely using social networks.

Cybersecurity Awareness Volunteer Education Program (C-SAVE)

The National Cybersecurity Alliance developed the C-SAVE program that is accessible online at staysafeonline.org/in-the-classroom/c-save. There are age-appropriate resources to discuss Internet safety in the classroom or an assembly with all students.

OnguardOnline.gov

This website, run by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), is a one-stop shop for online safety resources available to parents, educators, kids, and others.

Project iGuardian

ICE Homeland Security Investigations is one of the leading federal law enforcement agencies that investigate crimes involving child pornography and the sexual exploitation of minors. Project iGuardian provides resources to help children and teens stay safe online.

Cybertipline.com

The Congressionally-mandated CyberTipline, which is part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), receives online child solicitation reports 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Submit an online report or call 1-800-843-5678.

IF OR YOUR CHILD IS A VICTIM OF ONLINE CRIME

- Notify your local authorities and file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.
- If you think a site has collected information from your kids or marketed to them in a way that violates the law, report it to the FTC at www.ftc.gov/complaint.
- If someone has had inappropriate contact with your child, or a child you know, report it to www.cybertipline.com and the police.

www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect.

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