Internet Safety Tips for Parents and Guardians

Think Before You CLICK

Brought to you by
Homeland Security Investigations
and
United States Attorney’s Office
for the District of Massachusetts

Children’s increased access to and reliance on social media, chatting apps, gaming, and other internet-based platforms can lead to increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation.

Talk to your children about potential dangers & take action to protect their privacy!

Discuss internet safety with children of all ages when they engage in online activity.

Monitor internet use & keep devices in a common room (not the bedroom!)

Review and approve games and apps before they are downloaded.

Explain that images posted online stay on the internet permanently.

Set privacy settings to the strictest level possible for online & gaming profiles.

Check your children’s profiles: know what they are posting & who they are talking to.

If you suspect that your child has been victimized online or in person, please call law enforcement for assistance and resources.

Make sure your children know they can tell a parent, guardian, law enforcement, or other trusted adult if someone asks them to engage in sexually explicit activity online.

For more information:
www.netsmartzkids.org
www.missingkids.org
www.ice.gov/topics/iGuardians
www.justice.gov/usao-ma/project-safe-childhood

To report concerns:
CyberTipLine: 866-347-2423
Think Before You

Talk to your children about potential dangers & take action to protect their privacy: tips for parents

Set expectations about safe internet use & revisit them frequently with your kids

Discuss ground rules for safe online behavior

Agree on what type of information is ok to share and what should stay private

Outline consequences for violating ground rules

Review parental controls, privacy settings, and content frequently

Look for signs of potential victimization

New secrecy: quickly closing windows or apps

Change in behavior or attitude: visibly nervous when using certain apps

Suddenly withdrawn from social media

If you think your child is a victim...

- Do not delete anything!
- Place phone in airplane mode
- Report it to authorities

Remember & remind others: it’s not your child’s fault

Keep talking about how to keep them safe and happy

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