

Digital Safety Background

- With mobile smart devices such as smartphones, kids can stay connected everywhere they go. This offers many opportunities and advantages, but with new opportunities- we often see new challenges such as:
 - How to determine who should “friend” or “follow” your account
 - When to share photos or videos online
 - How to respond to negative remarks on social media
 - Whether to use location-based services on apps
 - How much screen time is appropriate
- When giving your kid access to any digital device, it is important to have ongoing conversations about digital safety so that they can develop smart decision-making skills online. It’s not that different from how you would guide them to stay safe offline. For example, you wouldn’t let them cross the street without reminding them to look both ways first, right?

Facts & Figures

- 98% of children age 8 and under have access to some sort of smart mobile device at home. ⁱ
- 89% of teens have their own smartphone ⁱⁱ
- 57% of teens say social media distracts them when they should be doing homeworkⁱⁱⁱ
- 99% of public schools and public libraries have an internet connection ^{iv}
- Teens use of the internet in school has increased by 45% since 2000^v

Additional Digital Safety Resources

- **The SmartTalk**: Interactive site that helps families have a digital safety conversation and set written ground rules to clarify technology limits.
- **Connect Safely**: Parents, teens, educators, and advocates will find tips, safety advice, articles, news, analysis, video and other resources to promote safe, effective use of connected technology. ConnectSafely is also the U.S. host of Safer Internet Day.
- **Common Sense Media**: Information about ways to support youth as they transform into digital citizens. Includes reviews and ratings for apps and games.
- **Net Cetera**: (OnGuardOnline.Gov): Parent friendly guides with information from the Federal Trade Commission on how to protect your child from identity theft and phishing scams
- **Facebook**: The Safety Center has resources for parents and children on privacy, security, and bullying prevention
- **Instagram**: This parent guide highlights key features of the Instagram app that parents should be aware of so they can ensure their children are protecting themselves

ⁱ <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns>

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^{iv} <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/03/the-schools-where-kids-cant-go-online/387589/>

^v <http://www.pewinternet.org/2005/08/02/the-internet-at-school/>