

### 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 their own 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?

### Using The Smart Talk

- The Smart Talk is an interactive website designed to help families have a conversation about using digital devices responsibly. As you answer a series of guided questions, a custom agreement is created which can then be printed and signed so that no one “forgets” what is allowed or not allowed. It even includes helpful tips as you move through the questions.
- Putting your technology ground rules into writing can help clarify what your expectations are for your kid and their online behavior.
- Before you sit down with your kid to create your Smart Talk agreement, you may want to take some time to consider what you are comfortable with as a parent.  
For example:
  - Would you require that your kid share all their social media account passwords?
  - Are they allowed to keep their phone on while they are in class?
- You may also want to get on the same page with your partner before creating your Smart Talk agreement so that you can ensure you have shared expectations for your kid’s online behavior.

### Additional Digital Safety Resources:

- [TheSmartTalk](#): Interactive site that helps families have a digital safety conversation and set written ground rules to clarify technology limits.
- [ConnectSafely](#): 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.
- [Google](#): Be Internet Awesome provides children with the tools necessary to explore the digital world safely and securely.
- [Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force](#): Helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and internet crimes against children.