



INTERNET SAFETY for kids

We know that keeping track of childrens activities can be difficult. Here are a few ways to encourage children to be safe online.

Appropriate conduct

Talk to children about what is and is not okay without inducing fear. Explain how cyberbullying works and the impact it can have.



Appropriate contact

Break down how catfishers, scammers, and predators operate. Be sure to explain this as simply as possible and share the red flags that may indicate something inappropriate.

Appropriate content

Speak to children about age-appropriate use of the internet and suggest websites or activities that fit their needs and interests. Teach children about avoiding pornography, violence, and hate speech.

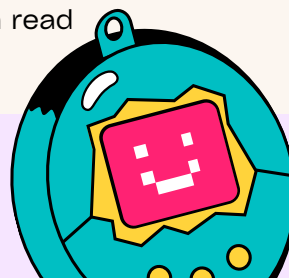
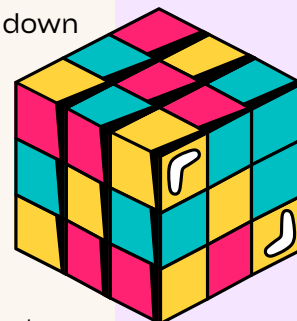
Protecting information

Encourage the child's passwords to be something they can remember, but also something that would not easily be guessed. For example, P@ssw0rd includes numbers and symbols, yet is simple enough for a child. Write passwords down in a safe spot and do not share them with anybody else.

Encourage usernames that are different from the child's real name and encourage them to not share information that is not required (ex. phone numbers, address, email, etc).

Need a place to start?

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/ : teaches children about internet safety and gives children a safe place to enjoy games and use the internet safely. This website teaches important lessons in a videogame-like format. This is most appropriate for students who can read or for a parent to follow along with them.



INTERNET SAFETY FOR TEENS

VALPARAISO POLICE DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WORK

TOP THREATS TO TEENS

- Cyberbullying
- Sexting
- Identify theft
- Pornography
- Predators



KEEPING TEENS SAFE

TALK ABOUT IT!

Communication is key. If there is a threat that you are concerned about, ask your child. No secret is a good one, so discussing concerns is crucial to avoiding strange or scary situations.



GROUND RULES

Clearly outline your expectations for online behavior. Do not share personal information with people you do not know. Do not let others use your phone, laptop, and tablet. Do not accept requests from strangers. Do not share photos of yourself over private text lines.

SIGNS OF TROUBLE

Secretive behavior, creating new email accounts, self-harm, becoming withdrawn, losing interest in friends or activities, displaying strong emotional responses after going online, not sharing who they are spending time with.

