

Social Media and Internet Safety

Types of Social Media:

- Snapchat: A photo messaging application that enables the user to take pictures, record videos, add texts and drawings, and send them to a list of recipients.
- Facebook: A popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.
- Twitter: A free social networking microblogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called “tweets.” Twitter members can broadcast tweets and follow other users’ tweets by using multiple platforms and devices.
- Instagram: a free online photo sharing and social network platform that allows users to upload, edit and share photos with other members through the Instagram website, email, and social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Foursquare and Flickr.
- Video-Sharing Sites: YouTube, Vine, etc. allows users to post videos.
- Online Games: Xbox Live, Poptropica, Club Penguin, etc. may allow users to play with friends AND strangers online using headsets and microphones.

Benefits of Social Media:

- Communication with friends and family members; can comment on life events
- Ways to update on one’s life without a phone call or a letter
- Can contact people they haven’t talked to or heard from in awhile
- Allows for self-expression (Art, music, political ideas, etc.)
- Helps develop self-identity
- Useful as a classroom tool

Risk/Dangers of Social Media:

- Cyber bullying
- Geolocation
- Inappropriate content
- Sexting
- Online Predators
- Viruses and Spyware

Protect Against Cyberbullying:

- Never respond to unkind remarks.
- Block the cyberbully.
- Tell a trusted adult.
- Save the posts.
- Notify law enforcement, if appropriate.
- Notify your child's school, if appropriate.

Using Social Media Safely:

- Know usernames and passwords of the sites your children use /monitor use
- Speak with kids about proper use of social media and what not to post.
Never reveal name, address, phone number, school name, etc.
- Things can't be permanently deleted so make sure your kids know this. If it isn't something they would be comfortable with the whole world seeing, don't post it.
- Only communicate with people you know and trust
- Keep it public - Computer(s) and tablets need to be used in a public area in the home and for a set time.
- Talk about it - "Friend" your children/parents and get involved.
- Locate and know privacy settings

Top 10 Safety Tips for Video-Sharing (Kids)

- 1. Tough to take back.** Whatever you post is basically permanent. Even if you later delete it, there is a chance that it has been copied, forwarded or reposted.
- 2. What the background reveals.** Think about what's in the scene you're recording: posters on your wall, photos on a shelf, school or team t-shirts people are wearing, address signs in front of a house or car license-plate numbers all can reveal your identity or location.
- 3. 'You are what you wear.'** It's an old maxim with new meaning in online video. Think about what your appearance "says" about you. Would you feel comfortable showing this video to your parents, boss or potential employer?
- 4. Respecting others' privacy.** Be respectful of the privacy rights of people in your video. Never take video of children without their parents' permission.
- 5. Everybody's a videographer.** Most cell phones and still cameras are also now video recorders. Be aware that when people take out a cell phone, they could be using it as a camera or camcorder.
- 6. Be a good citizen.** Don't be mean or nasty, especially when it comes to people who aren't in the public eye. You can be held legally responsible if you slander, libel or defame someone.
- 7. Respect terms of use.** Most video sites have terms of service that you must adhere to. Most of them prohibit sexually explicit content, gratuitous violence, and videos that are harassing, defamatory, obscene, libelous, hateful, or violating other people's privacy.
- 8. Respect copyrights.** All reputable video-sharing sites prohibit the unauthorized use of copyrighted material.
- 9. Talk with kids about video bullying.** Creating a video that makes fun of or ridicules another person can be extremely hurtful. This and other forms of cyberbullying are a growing problem on the Internet which affects many children and teens.
- 10. Kids' Web video viewing.** As with all media, parental discretion is not only advised – it's a necessary part of parenting. Even though most of the major sites prohibit pornography and gratuitous violence, there are videos that are not suitable for younger children.

Videos that address online safety and internet use for children:

- <https://jr.brainpop.com/artsandtechnology/technology/internetsafety/>
- http://www.abcya.com/cyber_five_internet_safety.htm
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89eCHtFsOXM>
- <https://www.common sense media.org/videos/5-internet-safety-tips-for-kids>