



# CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS DAY 17

Let's talk about  
**Protecting Children  
Online**

**Iwuchukwu Augusta Chioma**



# Protecting Children Online



Let's be honest childhood looks different now.

Before, Parents are worried about who their children played with outside.

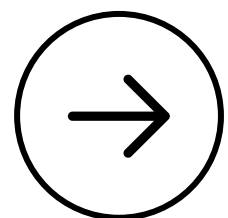
Now the worry is about who's chatting with them inside the screen.

The internet gives children endless opportunities

but without guidance, it can quietly take more than it gives.

Let's talk about what online safety really means for children in today's world and how to make it simple, loving, and real.

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# What Protecting Children Online Really Means



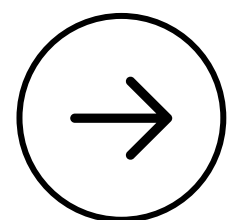
It's not about locking phones, banning apps, or becoming a digital police officer.

It's about teaching wisdom on how to recognize danger, think before clicking, and come to you when something feels wrong.

Online protection means helping a child:

- Know what's private and what's not.
- Understand that not everyone online is who they say they are.
- Build confidence to speak up even when scared.

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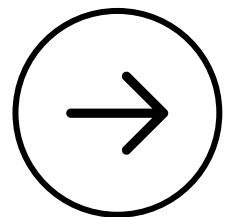
# Why It Matters



From homework to games to YouTube shorts children now spend more hours online than outdoors.

And while they play, chat, and learn... someone might be watching, tracking, or grooming.

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# Hidden Dangers



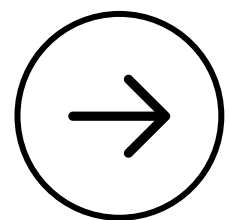
Not all danger looks like a hacker.

Sometimes, it's a perfectly filtered photo or friendly emoji.

- Kids using Instagram or TikTok with fake ages just to “belong.”
- Strangers disguised as peers, sliding into DMs.
- Apps that delete messages instantly.
- Free” games that harvest data.
- Challenges that turn peer pressure into pain.

The digital world is beautiful but also brutally persuasive.

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# How to Talk to Kids About Online Safety



Children don't need fear, they need understanding.

Instead of saying:

**Don't talk to strangers online.**

Try: "If someone online asks you personal questions or makes you feel uneasy, tell me immediately."

Instead of:

**Don't use that app.**

Try: "Let's check what that app really does before using it together."

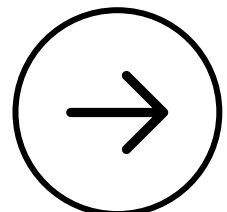
Instead of:

**Don't post pictures.**

Try: "Once something is online, it's hard to delete. Let's share things that show your talent, not your private life."

Talking to kids about safety shouldn't feel like punishment it should feel like teamwork.

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# Rules That Feel Like Love, Not Limits

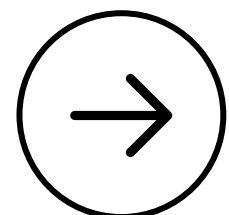


Children need boundaries, not barriers.  
Here's how to set loving digital rules:

- **Tech in Shared Spaces:** Keep phones and tablets in the living room, not bedrooms.
- **Time Balance:** Create “Tech-Free Hours” e.g during meals, bedtime, family time, devotion time.
- **Privacy Rules:** Teach them never to share location, school name, or photos of uniforms.
- **Friend Filter:** If you haven't met them in real life, they're not a real friend.
- **Set a secret family “help word”** ( a signal for when something feels wrong)

Remember, the goal isn't to stop them from exploring it's to make them wise explorers.

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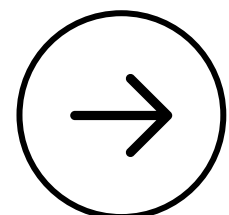


# How to Stay Safe (For Both You & Them)



Even parents need protection from hidden data leaks. Try these:

- Turn off location tags on all social apps.
- Use family safety settings (Google Family Link, Apple Screen Time, Microsoft Family Safety).
- Review app permissions monthly many don't need camera or mic access.
- Install a trusted parental control tool (like Bark, Qustodio, or Kaspersky Safe Kids).
- Keep browsers updated, use safe search mode, and filter adult content.
- Teach kids to pause before posting: "Would I say this in real life?"
- If someone online asks for anything personal, pause, screenshot, and tell an adult."
- And most importantly: model the same behavior. If adults are always on their phone, kids think it's normal.







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