Protecting
your KIDS
on social media

Online social media services aren't new, but many of us are still learning how to use them without getting into trouble – especially children and teens. Use these tips to help your kids safely use any social media service from networking to image posting sites.

NetSmartz® Workshop

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Do you know...

What they're posting?
Check comments and images for personal information, like phone numbers and addresses, as well as inappropriate and illegal content such as hateful or threatening speech and nudity. Delete anything you think is too much information.

How they access social media?
Mobile devices, like cell phones and tablets, let children access social media apps away from adult supervision. Children may post content and even share their locations. Review app settings to help them keep information – like their location – private.

Who they're talking to?
Your child's online contact lists and followers may include people you don't know, or even people your child only knows online. Even if you don't know the contact, make sure you know what images, messages, and other content they're sharing.

What account settings they're using?
This is where you can control who has access to your child's information. Each social media service has a different setup, so take a look at each one your child uses. Always ask yourself – *what* is on the profile and *who* can see it?

Who has access to their information?
Most social media services have ads and applications from 3rd parties, like games and fan pages. If children click on these or add them to their profiles, they are allowing access to their personal information. Have a discussion about what's OK to add and what's not.

Where to report?
If anyone talks to your child about sex, shares or asks them to share sexual images, or is a victim of sexual exploitation, make a report to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® at **www.CyberTipline.com** or **1-800-THE-LOST®**.

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY for TEENS

NetSmartz.org/TipSheets

LIKE
Follow
TWEET
Share
COMMENT

THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST CAN HELP YOU TAKE STEPS TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFER ONLINE.

○ **CHECK YOUR COMMENTS AND IMAGES.**
Have you posted anything inappropriate or illegal, like threats, nudity, alcohol, or drugs?

○ **TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT WHAT'S OK TO POST.**
Agree that you won't post embarrassing or hurtful comments or images of each other. Be clear that you'll delete – or if needed, report – any posts that are inappropriate, illegal, or threatening or could get you in trouble.

○ **REVIEW YOUR ACCOUNT SETTINGS.**
Go through each option slowly. Always ask yourself – *what* is on my profile and *who* can see it?

○ **KNOW YOUR FRIENDS, CONTACTS, AND FOLLOWERS.**
These are the people who can see, share, and comment on what you post so you want to be sure you can trust them. Block and report anyone who makes harassing, threatening, or inappropriate comments.

○ **KEEP AN EYE ON 3RD PARTY APPS.**
Some of these apps will give companies access to your personal information. Always read the fine print before deciding to add one.

○ **DON'T FORGET MOBILE.**
When you use mobile devices like smartphones and tablets to post something or check in, you could also be sharing your location. Check your settings to make sure you're only sharing what you want to.

○ **REPORT.**
You have the right to be safe online. If anyone cyberbullies you, make a report to the website or app. If anyone shares or asks you to share sexual messages or images, make a report to **www.CyberTipline.com.**

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