With Power Comes Responsibility

TOP 10 DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP TIPS FOR FAMILIES WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AGE KIDS

Help your kids be safe and respectful and have fun!

1. **Visit age-appropriate web sites.** Familiarize yourself with the features, content — even the advertising — of your child's favorite sites. Make sure it's good for your kids.

2. **Use bookmarks and safe search.** Teach your child to bookmark his or her favorite sites. This way, your child is less likely to go somewhere online you don't want. Use safe search options on browsers like Google or Bing to make sure your child can search safely.

3. **Keep private information private.** Tell kids not to share their passwords, Social Security number, full name, address, or birthday. And teach them to ask your permission before filling out online forms.

4. **Avoid strangers.** Explain that people aren't always who they say they are in cyberspace. If someone they don't know talks to them, kids shouldn't respond — but should let you know.

5. **Teach kids to think before they post.** Everything online leaves a digital footprint. Explain that everyone should think carefully about comments, pictures, videos, or text messages before they post them so that they will be comfortable with their Internet presence down the road.

6. **Be nice.** Explain that the same rules apply offline as they do online, like "don't say mean things" and "be nice to others." A good rule of thumb: If kids wouldn't do something in person, they shouldn't do it online. Teach them how to report mean behavior on their favorite sites.

7. **Teach kids to show respect for other people's work.** Just as they would want to receive credit for things they make — like artwork, pieces of writing, or photos — they should give credit to other people's work they use.

8. **Keep the computer in a central place.** That way you can see what's going on.

9. **Find a good balance.** Establish expectations and limits that work for your family about the amount of time your children spend online and what they do.

10. **Be involved, and have fun with them!** Show an interest in the sites kids visit and the games they play. That'll make your job a lot easier when they start exploring technology more independently. And remember to view your own habits – you're their role model!

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