

Keeping Your Children Safe Online

The S.M.A.R.T. Approach – A Parent's Guide



Setup – *Set Up for Safety*

- Turn on privacy settings for the best protection.
- Know your child's passwords.
- Charge children's devices outside bedrooms.
- Use parental controls and tell your child they are on.
- Turn on safe search and content filters.



Monitor – *Watch and Stay Aware*

- Keep devices in shared spaces so you can see use.
- Enable location sharing via apps like Life360.
- Check browser history, apps, and contacts weekly.
- Know who your child talks to online and in games.



Approve – *Check Before You Allow*

- Read reviews, and check privacy protections of apps before installing.
- Try the app yourself before allowing your child to use it.
- You make the final decision about what's okay.



Restrict – *Set Clear Rules*

- Manage screen time and set limits.
- Make mealtimes and homework device-free.
- Stop device use 30–60 minutes before bedtime.



Talk – *Talk and Listen*

- How you react matters — stay calm if an issue arises.
- Listen first. Don't judge. Solve the problem together.
- Kids who receive harmful, scary, or inappropriate messages or pictures need support.



Essential Online Safety Guidelines

Teach your child to never:

- Share their full name, age, school, address, or phone number online
- Take photos with strangers
- Make plans alone to meet anyone online
- Keep secrets about online friends



Warning Signs

Watch for signs that your child may need support:

- Someone asking for photos or personal information
- Gifts or money sent to or from your child online
- Threats or blackmail messages
- Sudden secrecy, behavior or mood changes
- Multiple accounts on the same app
- Frequently deleting browsing history



Resources for Support

Report When Something Has Happened

Before blocking or deleting anything, screenshot all messages and images.

- **Danger or threats:** call 911
- **Crisis Support:** Text HOME to 741741
- **Report within 24 hours:** Sextortion, explicit images, adult requesting private contact

Where to File Reports:

- **OK2SAY** (Michigan's 24/7 anonymous reporting): 855-565-2729
- **Michigan State Police ICAC:** 1-877-MI-CYBER or MSP-Cyber@Michigan.gov
- **Your School Administrator**
- **Local Police**

