



## KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE SEVEN TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Nothing is more effective than parental supervision, involvement and ongoing communication, regardless of a child's age.



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- 1. Encourage children to listen to their instincts.** If something online feels wrong or unsafe (chat rooms, websites, etc.), leave!
- 2. Remind youth to refrain from talking to strangers online**-never give personal information through an online profile such as your name, address, school name or city. Additionally, never arrange to meet someone without talking to an adult first.
- 3. Set time limits for electronics use.** The lengths of time spent on the electronic devices as well as the time of day are factors to consider.
- 4. Take advantage of blocking/filtering programs,** a few great ones to check out in the app store are NetSanity, Net Nanny and OurPact.
- 5. Spend time online with children** and familiarize yourself with the social media/apps/gaming sites they are interested in. Communicate with your child what you consider appropriate material.
- 6. Advocate for the transfer of appropriate messages, pictures and videos only.** Teach children to end communication and contact a trusted adult if inappropriate material is sent .
- 7. Instruct children to report inappropriate activity.** Suggest trusting adults that children may contact if inappropriate activity occurs while away from home. Examples: school resource officer, local law enforcement agency or the national reporting site, [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)

