

Report  
to **PARENTS**

# Teaching Kids About Online Safety

Children's increased online presence might put them at greater risk of child exploitation. It's important to discuss internet safety and develop an online safety plan with kids. Use these tips to establish clear guidelines, teach kids to spot red flags, and encourage them to have open communication with you.

## Keep Tabs

Supervise kids' use of the internet, including their phones, by checking their profiles, activity, and posts. Keep electronic devices in open, common areas and set time limits for their use. Take time to review games, apps, and social media platforms before children use them.

## Be Wary of Features

Pay attention to apps and sites that feature end-to-end encryption, direct messaging, video chats, file uploads, and user anonymity, which online child predators frequently use. Encourage children to tell a parent or trusted adult if anyone asks them to engage in inappropriate or dangerous behavior.

## Employ Parental Controls

Adjust privacy settings and use parental controls for online games, apps, social media platforms, and electronic devices. If it seems daunting, subscribe to parental control apps that monitor activity and send alerts for as little as \$5 a month. [ConsumersAdvocate.org](http://ConsumersAdvocate.org) provides a list of the top parental control apps and how to get them.

## Educate Your Child

Tell kids to avoid sharing personal information, photos, and videos online in public forums or



with people they don't know. Remind them that images posted online will be permanently on the internet. Suggest to your children that if they haven't met someone in person, they shouldn't add them on social media.

## Set a Good Example

Your child looks to you for guidance, so set a positive online example by modeling appropriate internet practices. As you set rules and boundaries, observe them yourself. Children are more likely to conform when they see that the rules apply to you as well.

## Take Action

Immediately report suspected online enticement or sexual exploitation of a child by calling 911, contacting the FBI at [tips.fbi.gov](http://tips.fbi.gov), or filing a report with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 or [report.cybertip.org](http://report.cybertip.org).