

Children and Technology Discernment in the Dangers of Digital

Here are a few general principles for helping your children understand and use technology:

1. Your level of scrutiny must meet your child's level of exposure
2. You have every right and responsibility to inspect and control your child's technology
 1. It is your job to keep your children safe - not a school, Apple, Microsoft, Dell, or the government
3. You are in charge
 1. You have to be the one to be the gatekeeper. You have to initiate the conversation, set the standards, enforce the standards
 2. No one cares more about the purity of your children than you do
 3. Teens do not have a right to full privacy when it comes to their technology
4. It's worth it the struggle to stay up-to-date and vigilant on technology

Technological advances that can be a blessing or a great hindrance to your family. The following list will show different types of technology that your child may use and how you can work to protect them.

Toddler Websites

starfall.com, abcmouse.com, pbskids.org, etc.

- Use computer in a public place
- Have filters in place (Open DNS is nice) - Popups are common and can be dangerous
- Limit time for several reasons - kids need your interaction - you need to be more available and engaging than a computer screen

Gaming

- Some kids are into it, some are not
- Wii's and PS3's have full browser internet capability - quick access to anything on the internet
- Gaming can become an addictive behavior
- Games can also include many ways to meet others of any age online

Texting

- Teen average - 3339 texts per month
- Sexting - sending/receiving illicit messages or images
- Be careful with teenagers texting at night

Peer-to-Peer file sharing

- Limewire, torrent
- Can share anything - pirated media, pornography
- Most content transferred is illegally pirated and punishable by law

Television

- Most TV's have channel blocks
- Eliminate movie channels and pay per view listings

Cell Phones

- Many cellular providers can provide limits and filters with your plan
- Some parents take all phones away at 8pm
- Discuss the appropriate age to get a cell phone

iPad, iPod Touch, iPhones and Smartphones

For iOS devices, it is currently impossible to run background filtering or accountability software

Here is only way to "lockdown" an iOS device:

- Set restrictions password
- Disable safari
- Disable app store
- Remove any apps that have direct access to google and a browser: facebook, twitter, etc.
- For installing of new apps, user must give device to accountability person to put in password

Android Devices

Background internet filters are available

Home Computer or Laptop

- Internet history can easily be deleted - Not sufficient for monitoring
- Must use in a public place
- Must have some form of internet accountability and/or filter
- Internet filters are only as good as the administrator - can't just set and forget
- Keylogger software is available
- Best filters - Safeeyes, x3 watch, bsecure, Covenant Eyes

Home Router

- You must have wireless security - open to others using your internet (pirating, child pornography, etc.)
- Open DNS is wonderful

Facebook

Helpful guidelines for Facebook

- Parents must have login info
- Parents must approve friends
- Settings must block all but friends
- All photos must be modest
- No post indicating personal info - phone # etc

- No post indicating personal / family location (except past) No post with random, useless info
- No Facebook usage on a school night - none!
- No profile info containing personal information:
 - no address
 - no phone #
 - no year on DOB
- No post about personal relationships

Pinterest

Online site where users “pin” pictures, articles, menus, make-up tips, or whatever else they find that they like online. Other people then follow another person’s pins. Mainly female but not all.

What Facebook and Twitter can do in terms of gossip, bullying, and libel, Pinterest can promote materialism and promulgate the allure of fame and glamour.