

Having “The Internet Talk” With Your Kids

It is extremely important to speak with your children about the dangers of social media. They must understand that how they behave on social media now, can greatly affect their lives in the future. Hearing this information at school is simply not enough. The children need to hear this information from you and need to know that you care, you are concerned, and that you will be checking in on their social media behavior and habits.

Here are a few areas to make sure you discuss during your conversation:

- Anything you post on social media becomes **permanent**. It is not something that can be erased or simply taken back. If cruel comments are made, they will remain online forever. If inappropriate photos are posted or taken, they will exist online for the rest of their lives. This is not only important for your own child’s well-being, but should also make them wary of how they speak to their peers online.
- It is possible that some of their inappropriate behavior online may be **prosecutable**. Even if the inappropriate comments or posting are done at home, it can still produce trouble in a school setting. Students can be suspended from school and some may even be charged with a crime. If you are prosecuted for cyberbullying, you will be charged with a misdemeanor that will remain on your juvenile record. If you are sending and/or receiving inappropriate images as a minor, your parents can be charged with child pornography since the device technically belongs to them.



The Best Ways to Monitor and Control Your Child's

Technology Use

Listed below are some of the top rated Parental-Control Apps of 2019. Please consider using one or more of these apps in an effort to monitor your child's use of technology. Many are being exposed to content that is inappropriate for their age range or are using technology too frequently which hinders their sleep, concentration, and performance in school.

Boomerang Parental Control

- Gives parents remote control of their non-iOS devices. (It is also available on the iOS platform however there are some limitations.)
- This application is free for a 14-day trial. After 14 days, the user has the option to subscribe to different packages including single device plans or family plans.
- This application gives the user the ability to use the following features: location tracking, text message monitoring, call block features, and internet restrictions.
- Go to useboomerang.com for more information

ScreenTime

- This parental control app can be used on Android and iOS devices.
- ScreenTime lets you manage how much time your child spends on their phones and/or tablets & iPads.
- Parents can set tasks for the children to complete and can reward them with extra screen time. *It also includes an instant pause feature.
- Allows you to see which specific apps are used and for how long, receives notifications when kids try to download new apps, and monitor internet searches.
- Able to block apps at certain times of day and restrict activity to certain hours.
- For more information go to: screentimelabs.com

Qustodio for Families

- Provides monitoring tools and parental controls for screen time, adult content, and games.
- Able to manage devices on multiple platforms

- Features include setting time limits, monitor apps being used, text monitoring, filtering technology, and inappropriate content blocking, among others.
- Allows you to track your child's location and use a panic button in case of emergency.
- For more information please go to: [Qustodio.com](https://www.Qustodio.com)

ESET Parental Control

- Provides age-based filters to manage apps, blocks inappropriate websites, allows you to set time limits, and track the location of the device.
- If a child attempts to visit a blocked webpage, this app will ask for parental permission before the child can continue
- Can easily set web filters and restrict access by web categories
- For more information please go to: parentalcontrol.eset.com

Norton Family Parental Control

- Protects up to 10 devices
- Provides age-appropriate settings for each device, web filtering, an inventory of what your child searches for, and location tracking
- Tells you which sites your children visit, and allows you to set time limits for each device.
- For more information please go to: family.norton.com

The Apple Store

- If you own multiple Apple devices, the Apple store website allows you to research their own software for tracking your child's internet usage and limiting their access to inappropriate sites.
- For more information please go to support.apple.com

Circle

- Features include: time limits for screen time and certain apps, search filters, bedtime curfew options, reports of usage, and the ability to give rewards
- Provides a history of technology use for the day includes sites visited and time spent
- For more information please go to: meetcircle.com

Uknowkids.com

- Features include: text message monitoring, photo reviews, web browsing & search history, call logs, family locator tool, social network scanning, and digital safety resources
- Free one week trial – then a monthly fee depending on the level plan desired
- For more information please go to: uknowkids.com

Net Nanny

- Has different products based on different operating systems
- Features include: Parental controls, internet filters, pornography blocking, time management, alerts & reporting, and remote administration
- Prices based on how many devices you are monitoring
- Has been featured on NBC, Today, The Dr. Oz Show, ABC News, and Good Morning America
- For more information please go to: netnanny.com

*This information was provided by the Educational App Store website.