CHILD SAFETY ONLINE

- **Do** only connect with gamers and online profiles of people you know and trust. Review connections often.
- **Do** assume ALL information and images you share are publicly viewable regardless of your settings.
- **Do** use a photo of something other than yourself for your profile picture.
- **Do** tell kids to let parents or responsible adults know about anything that makes them uncomfortable online.

- **Don't** use location services.
- **Don't** add your birthdate, location, phone number, or other personal details to online profiles.
- **Don't** forget your children have online privacy rights as well. If you are unsure what those rights or laws are, you can find them here: https://www.ftc.gov/consumerprotection/childrens-privacy

Stats and Resources

- An April 2015 Pew Research Center study revealed that 92% of teens report going online daily – including 24% who say they go online "almost constantly." A separate study showed that nearly 40% of 3–4-year-olds and two thirds of 5–7-year-olds go online.

- Cyber-bullying, malware, and child predators are a few dangers that make the Internet an unsafe environment for unsuspecting children. In 2012, the FBI launched Safe Online Surfing (SOS), a challenging but fun and informative game that educates children about online safety. See more at https://www.fbi.gov/fbi-kids.

- In half of all sex crimes against a minor involving a social networking site, the social networking site was used to initiate the relationship. 55% of teens have given out personal information to someone they don't know, including photos and physical descriptions. For more info, see here: https://www.guardchild.com/social-media-statistics-2.

- 67% of teenagers say they know how to hide from their parents what they do online. 43% of teens say they would change their online behavior if they knew that their parents were watching them.

Parental Controls

One of the best ways to help protect your child online is to monitor what applications they are using.

For iOS users, it is recommended that parents keep the Apple ID password and not provide it to the child using the device. Also, make sure that the iPhone requires the Apple ID password before any downloads can take place.

This can be done on Android devices, as well.

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Security Applications

A variety of paid software packages are available for monitoring your child's online activities. The following packages are effective tools for monitoring or preventing access to content.

Blocksi Web Filter

Blocksi Web Filter is a web filter and parental control extension for Google Chrome. It can be configured to protect your family from inappropriate content on the Internet.
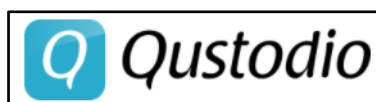
Microsoft Family Safety

Microsoft Family is a free service that helps families stay connected and keeps kids safer on Windows 10 and Xbox One devices, along with Android devices running Microsoft Launcher. You'll find settings like activity reporting, screen time limits, location sharing, and content restrictions at account.microsoft.com/family.

Net Nanny

Net Nanny Social lets you keep track of your children on social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Instagram, Pinterest, and LinkedIn. The following features are included: detection of any new accounts created, the ability to identify cyberbullying, cyber-stalking or grooming, access to view photos and videos the child has published, alert notifications, and daily/weekly reports.

Qustodio

Qustodio offers both free and premium parental control apps consisting of simple tools to manage kids' screen time, filter content, and monitor or block apps kids use. The premium features included are as follows: SMS message and call tracking, location tracking and panic button, the ability to view social media activity on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp, a pornography blocker, multi-device time limit controls, game and app download control, and a browser-independent content filter that handles HTTPS traffic.

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My Mobile Watchdog

My Mobile Watchdog is a parental control app that includes everything you need to monitor your child's phone activity. Features include web filtering, time restrictions, app blocking, real-time alerts when a stranger calls the child's phone, location tracking (up to 99 locations) to know exactly where your child is at any time, and daily watch summaries! A daily breakdown of your child's activity is conveniently packaged and emailed to you.

Norton Family Premier

Norton Family Premier supports Windows, Android, and iOS devices (no MAC support). It includes web supervision that allows warnings, blocking, or monitoring of sites based on your own site category choices, video tracking, SMS contacts control on Android, email alerts, online time limits, an Activity Tracker to view device internet history, and location tracking.

YouTube

This app deserves another look because its YouTube Kids service has just pushed a parent-approved content control that lets parents select every video and channel available to their child(ren). It is available on Android and iOS as of this writing.

On Android: Open "Settings" and scroll down to the bottom just past your child's (or your) profile. Select "approved content only" or "Restricted Mode On."

On iPhone: Open "Settings," then "General" and toggle "Restricted Mode" to On.

Next, you may want to also lock "Restricted Mode" on your browser. "Restricted Mode" lock prevents others from changing the settings on that browser.

Additional Sources

Disney+ parental controls information can be found here: https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=36628f4bdbd66c50055ceadc13961909

Setting up router controls for your kids: https://kb.netgear.com/25687/How-do-I-set-up-Live-ParentalControls-on-my-NETGEAR-router-using-the-genie-desktop-app.

Google has its own Safety Center to help ensure your kids remain safe here: www.google.com/safetycenter/families/start.

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