

Become Knowledgeable:

One of the challenges of trying to protect our children is the child probably knows more about computers/phones than you do. Don't let this stop you from doing what you can. You need to become more knowledgeable about the issues of the internet and how to protect your children. There are websites that can help. They are, www.netismartz.org, and www.ncmec.org. These sites all have good information on internet safety. Netsmartz even has videos for you and your children to watch. So, check out these websites.

Everyone wants to protect their children from danger. Because the dangers facing our children have changed, we need to understand them and do what we can to protect our children.

In Summary, here are the main points on internet safety:

- Monitor your child's internet activities and move the computer to a public area
- Talk to your child about internet safety and establish rules
- Check into software utilities that can provide additional safety
- Become knowledgeable
- Report any inappropriate activities

DO you know LINGO?

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| POS | Parent Over Shoulder |
| PAW | Parents Are Watching |
| P911 | Parents In Room (alert) |
| AITR | Adult In The Room |
| TPTB | The Powers That Be |
| KPC | Keeping Parents Clueless |
| A/S/L | Age/Sex/Location |
| M or F | Male or Female |
| BF or GF | Boyfriend or Girlfriend |
| BFF | Best Friends Forever |
| BM&Y | Between Me And You |

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| LUV U | Love You |
| LYSO | Love You So Much |
| TOY | Thinking Of You |
| H&K | Hugs And Kisses |
| QT | Cutie |
| ADDY | Address |
| A3 | Anytime, Anywhere, Anyplace |
| WH5 | Who, What, When, Where, Why? |
| F2F | Face to Face |
| IRL | In Real Life |
| WK | Week |
| WKD | Weekend |
| 2NITE | Tonight |
| OMW | On My Way |
| WRUD | What Are You Doing |
| RUOK | Are You Okay? |
| PTB | Please Text Back |
| DIKU | Do I Know You? |
| TMI | Too Much Information |
| 411 | Information |
| MYOB | Mind Your Own Business |
| NOYB | None Of Your Business |
| WAJ | What A Jerk |
| 2G2BT | Too Good To Be True |
| IOMH | In Over My Head |
| BRD | Bored |
| IDK | I Don't Know |
| DKDC | Don't Know, Don't Care |
| IMO | In My Opinion |
| AFAIK | As Far As I Know |
| NM | Never Mind |
| BTW | By The Way |
| FYI | For Your Information |
| FWIW | For What It's Worth |
| BRB | Be Right Back |
| AFK | Away From Keyboard |
| LOL | Laughing Out Loud |
| ROTFL | Rolling On The Floor Laughing |
| K | Okay |
| JK | Just Kidding |
| SLAP | Sounds Like A Plan |
| PLZ | Please |
| TY or THX | Thank You; Thanks |
| YW | You're Welcome |
| NP | No Problem |
| G2G | Got TO Go |
| BNF | Bye For Now |
| TTFN | Ta Ta For Now |
| L8R | Later |
| CYA | See You (later) |
| CYT | See You Tomorrow |

For additional examples of internet and text messaging lingo search the web for the phrase "texting lingo."

What Every Parent Needs to Know

Internet/Phone



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Cell Phone Safety Tips:

Once upon a time....Kids would have to go outside to play a game with friends, get up to change the TV manually, and would have to walk 3 miles to school– uphill both ways. A little further down the road kids have access to newfangled technology and their parents are struggling to keep up with it all.

If you're are a parent with a teenager (or tween) you may already be familiar with pressure but still the numbers are shocking.

Statistics:

- A whopping 77% of teens (between the ages of 12 and 17) own a cell phone
- Furthermore, 56% of tweens (ages 8 through 12) own a cell phone
- 75 % of teen drivers admitting to texting while driving
- 28% of teens admitted to sending inappropriate pictures via text
- A large group of parents were asked what age would be appropriate for a child to get their first cell phone. 22% of the parents felt that 10 was a good age.

So if you haven't been asked the following question yet..... get ready, its coming very soon.

Mom/DAD, can I have a smart phone

In all honesty, it becomes harder and harder to say no. We all remember being on the other end of "but everybody else has one!" and how frustrating it felt when

Your parent's didn't understand. Most parents will set forth ground rules, like when they asked for a pet. Here is an example:

Cell phone contract for a tween/teenager

- I do not own this phone. My parents are awesome, and they are giving me the privilege of using this phone.
- Nothing is free, this phone and the ability to use it, cost money. I will work hard to earn this privilege.
- I will take care of my phone. If I break it, I will have to replace it and same goes for losing it.
- I will never use this phone in an inappropriate way.
- I will not exceed my data, text, talk plan

Other possible rules could be:

- I will never use this phone to send a mean or hurtful text. If I have a disagreement with somebody, I will talk face to face
- Talk or text after 9pm
- Send or receive inappropriate text
- Send or receive inappropriate images
- Follow policies regarding cell phone use in school
- Talk or text while driving
- If I decide to put a lock screen on my phone my parents will know the password or code. My parents will have access to all my phone call history and text message history.
- **My parents** agree to respect my privacy and will only use their rights of access if I have shown suspicious behavior.
- I understand that this phone can be taken away if I am on it too much, or if I express negative behavior including talking back or failing to keep up with my chores.
- If my grades drop, I will loose this phone until I have brought my grades back up.
- If my phone has the ability to surf the internet, I will use SafesurchEngine or an app similar.

As parents of a teenager with a smart phone, computer or tablet you are responsible for:

- Restricting the amount of time your teenager spends on it.
- Encouraging activities that will draw your child or teenager back into the "real world" so (s)he is more attentive to his or her surroundings.
- Understanding the features on your child's phone so you can answer questions and offer guidance.
- Updating the privacy settings on your child's phone
- Understanding how your child is using their phone, so you can keep an eye out for suspicious behavior.
- **ENFORCING THE RULES**

In the end, you are the parent. Unless your teenage has a job and is paying for his or her own cell phone and phone bill, you should have full control over the situation. Don't be afraid to put your foot down and revoke-or deny the privilege until your teenager shows full responsibility on their end.

Safe Internet Use on Smart Phones

The ability to brose the internet (for tweens and teens that have access to the internet on their cell phone) opens up an entirely new area of safety concerns. Not only can kids search the web more discreetly, most parents do not view this activity as much of a risk as they do allowing their kids to search on a regular computer. The fact is, the dangers are just as real and even worse when you consider that with a smart phone, kids can search the internet outside of the watchful eye of parents while using their cell phone in school.

An open conversation about all of these issues is vital to instilling responsible behavior from kids of all ages. To explore internet filtering go to www.safesearchkids.com