



# Internet Safety Tips for Parents and Guardians



Think Before You



brought to you by  
Homeland Security Investigations  
and  
United States Attorney's Office  
for the District of Vermont

CHILDREN'S INCREASED ACCESS TO AND RELIANCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA, CHATTING APPS, GAMING, AND OTHER INTERNET-BASED PLATFORMS CAN LEAD TO INCREASED VULNERABILITY TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT POTENTIAL DANGERS & TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY!



DISCUSS INTERNET SAFETY WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES WHEN THEY ENGAGE IN ONLINE ACTIVITY



MONITOR INTERNET USE & KEEP DEVICES IN A COMMON ROOM (not the bedroom!)



REVIEW AND APPROVE GAMES AND APPS BEFORE THEY ARE DOWNLOADED



EXPLAIN THAT **IMAGES** POSTED ONLINE STAY ON THE INTERNET **PERMANENTLY**



SET **PRIVACY SETTINGS** TO THE STRICTEST LEVEL POSSIBLE FOR ONLINE & GAMING PROFILES



CHECK YOUR CHILDREN'S PROFILES: KNOW **WHAT** THEY ARE POSTING & **WHO** THEY ARE TALKING TO

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN VICTIMIZED ONLINE OR IN PERSON, PLEASE CALL LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN KNOW THEY CAN TELL A PARENT, GUARDIAN, LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR OTHER TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMEONE ASKS THEM TO ENGAGE IN SEXUALLY EXPLICIT ACTIVITY ONLINE



For more information:  
[www.netSMARTkids.org](http://www.netSMARTkids.org)  
[www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org)  
[www.ice.gov/topics/iGuardians](http://www.ice.gov/topics/iGuardians)  
[www.justice.gov/usao-vt/project-safe-childhood](http://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/project-safe-childhood)

To report concerns:  
CyberTipline: 866-347-2423

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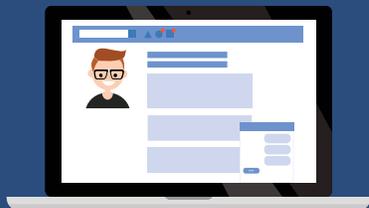
United States Attorney's Office  
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## TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT POTENTIAL DANGERS & TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY: TIPS FOR PARENTS

### SET EXPECTATIONS ABOUT SAFE INTERNET USE & REVISIT THEM FREQUENTLY WITH YOUR KIDS



DISCUSS **GROUND RULES** FOR SAFE ONLINE BEHAVIOR



AGREE ON WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION IS **OK TO SHARE** AND WHAT SHOULD STAY **PRIVATE**



OUTLINE **CONSEQUENCES** FOR VIOLATING GROUND RULES



**REVIEW** PARENTAL CONTROLS, PRIVACY SETTINGS, AND CONTENT **FREQUENTLY**

### LOOK FOR SIGNS OF POTENTIAL VICTIMIZATION



NEW **SECRECY**: QUICKLY CLOSING WINDOWS OR APPS



**CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR** OR ATTITUDE: VISIBLY NERVOUS WHEN USING CERTAIN APPS



SUDDENLY **WITHDRAWN** FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

### IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD IS A VICTIM...



- **DO NOT DELETE** ANYTHING!
- PLACE PHONE IN **AIRPLANE** MODE
- **REPORT** IT TO AUTHORITIES



REMEMBER & REMIND OTHERS: **IT'S NOT YOUR CHILD'S FAULT**



**KEEP TALKING** ABOUT HOW TO KEEP THEM SAFE AND HAPPY



For more information:  
[www.netsmartzkids.org](http://www.netsmartzkids.org)  
[www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org)  
[www.ice.gov/topics/iGuardians](http://www.ice.gov/topics/iGuardians)  
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