

SOCIAL (MEDIA) SECURITY FOR STUDENTS

5 STRATEGIES TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE ONLINE



Your kids can be both social and secure while online this summer by heeding some important safety guidelines that protect them while they are communicating or gaming with friends. Parents have access to a variety of tools that will help them stay cyber-aware and in control of their children's online activity.

1.

Talk early & often to your children about online safety

Children begin playing with tablets as toddlers. Since they often figure out apps and software quicker than parents, it's never too soon to explain to them the dangers of sharing personal information or photos.

2.

Set safeguards on all smart devices

Apps like Kid Zone or Mobicip allow parents to block unwanted text messages and calls and Internet access to certain Web pages. Equally as important, parents can mitigate online risks by updating security software regularly on all family devices.

3.

Monitor all devices & platforms

The Kidgy Parental Control app gives parents supervision of their kid's online activity. Parents can block inappropriate content and the Internet during sleeping and school time. Going a step further, Kiddle is a kid-friendly search engine.

4.

Remind students that nothing they post is private

It is never okay to post anything that you wouldn't want your grandmother or Aunt Louise to see. There are many examples of teenager's information being shared without their consent, by text or on social media, that can be embarrassing or even put them in danger.

5.

Don't Give Up

It's almost inevitable that there will be disagreements between children and their parents. That is part of the challenge of parenthood. If the argument over social media access becomes a daily struggle it might be easy to "give up" the fight. The safety and innocence of this generation is at stake. It's worth the time and energy to keep them safe online.

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At Wimberley ISD, your student's teachers and administrators will reinforce the importance of staying safe online and also being mindful of the amount of time spent in front of their smart devices. For more information on and resources for keeping your students safe online, visit: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0002-parents>

Sources:

<https://kidgy.com/>

<https://www.parents.com/kids/safety/internet/best-apps-prevent-cyberbullying/#page=1>