

PARENTING TECHNOLOGY: IS YOUR HOME PROTECTED?



Parents - Mandatory Homework:

- The target is the heart:** Actively discipline your kids and have regular conversations
- Enforced content filtering on your home router! See other side.
- Be very thoughtful on smartphones and cellular data

Get informed? - Technology Options & Considerations:

- Review the
- Build your knowledge: Great information on specific apps and how to protect specific devices:
[Protect Young Eyes](#) (next two slides)
- parentingtechnology.org

Additional Resources, Commentary, and Notes:

- Nominate which parent takes responsibility for researching, implementing, monitoring, documenting, & enforcing safe technology rules.
- No excuse to not have content filtering; either Disney Circle or OpenDNS.** A critical assumption is that your home network is protected and has enforced content filtering that cannot be trivially bypassed.
- Do not use a Comcast or DSL modem+router combo; get a router that support either Disney Circle or OpenDNS enforced and set it up properly (technical guides available).
- Confirm Kids do not know Comcast/ISP credentials (bypass via “xfinitywifi”)
- Confirm no open wifi in neighborhood; if found, contact neighbor
- Confirm Kids do not have your email passwords (& don’t reuse passwords)
- Have your email address be the recovery/emergency email address used on your Kids’ account (e.g. Gmail; allowing you access if needed)
- Be Smart when buying your kid(s) a phone!** Know your options. Do not be locked into Verizon or AT&T contracts. For example, do your homework on prepaid options which provide a great, simple way for managing cost. E.g. [PagePlus](#), [T-Mobile Prepaid](#), or [NON-OTA Republic Wireless plans](#). [AT&T offers “Smart Limits”](#) which offers family-friendly features. Verizon has other features such as the “Family Locator”. T-Mobile has “kidConnect” which limits charges and “Family Where”. AT&T features appear to be the most mature based on no first-hand experience.
I would NOT enter a contract for a basic “dumb” flip phone. I would save the contract for a year or two later when you want to add a Smartphone. Example “dumb” phones you can buy outright and activate:
 - [AT&T/T-Mobile/GSM: LG B470 Flip Phone Unlocked GSM 3G](#) \$50
 - [Verizon/PagePlus: LG Revere 3 Verizon Wireless Camera Flip Phone](#) \$50
- Make a list of devices that access the internet; where are they? Who uses them? Are parental controls enabled, if appropriate? Check their effectiveness (e.g. were they disabled?).
- Enforce a plan on devices in bedrooms/unmonitored areas (e.g. cellular data devices in bedrooms; recommend charging devices in kitchen, etc.)
- Get an electronic password store: [LastPass](#) or [Dashlane](#)

Suggested Ages	<8 years old	8-11 years old	11-14 years old	14-18 years old			
Content Filtering	Required w/ dual wireless networks for different levels of filtering	Required: on router & recommend dual wireless network for different levels of filtering (#2 on back page)	Required: filter on wireless router so every device is covered	Required: on wireless router so every device is covered			
Computer/Tablet	Shared w/ password access	Shared w/o password access No cellular data internet; replace browser	Shared w/o password access No cellular data internet; replace browser	Individual devices & computer. No cellular data internet			
Mobile Phone	Not recommended*	"Dumb" phone only or no cellular data	"Dumb" phone only or no cellular data	Smartphone; replace browser			
Email & Social Media	Block w/ content filtering	Email w/ supervision Block w/ content filtering School driven social media w/ supervision	Email w/ supervision (no snooping; build trust). Documented social media & email accounts.	Email w/ supervision (no snooping; build trust). Documented social media & email accounts.			
Gaming Consoles, Smart TVs, & other internet devices	Non-internet games OK. Internet-enabled games not recommended.	Your discretion; public area; monitoring usage. Age appropriate games. Minimal online gameplay. Review online "friends".	Your discretion; public area; monitoring usage. Age appropriate games. Minimal online gameplay. Review online "friends".	Your discretion; public area; monitoring usage. Age appropriate games. Minimal online gameplay. Review online "friends".			
<p>Goal: Introduce kid(s) to the internet, its usefulness & drawbacks; ensure working & secure content filtering; work 1-on-1 to build trust & have fun together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Content Filtering required (e.g. Netear Router w/ Disney Circle or OpenDNS) <input type="checkbox"/> Computer is shared in common area of the house with password; only to be used with parents' permission; do not give the password to your kid(s); access is a privilege. <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend a shared home phone. Low-cost option is a VoIP phone (e.g. MagicJack or Ooma) to have a "home" number or "landline". Allows kid(s) to learn how to speak on the phone and a number to provide family where they can reach kid(s). Also best practice to give this number to businesses to minimize junk mobile phone calls. <input type="checkbox"/> No individual internet devices; computer, phone, or tablet, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend all internet-enabled devices have a pass code/password before use (e.g. gaming console, Smart TV). 		<p>Goal: Giving kid(s) a personal device while keeping safe controls in place. Build trust & balanced usage habits. "Social Contract" on privileges, responsibility, & consequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not recommended to give a device with cellular data internet access; e.g. iPhone, Android phone, Tablet w/ cellular data. Recommend iOS-devices (Apple) due to ease of parental controls <input type="checkbox"/> If a phone is required, it's a "dumb" or has no cellular data. <input type="checkbox"/> Enable parental controls restricting installing & removing apps, remove browser (e.g. Chrome, Safari), and install K9. <input type="checkbox"/> Parents link iTunes/Android accounts <input type="checkbox"/> Do not fall for the "promotions" AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, etc. want to lock you into a smartphone for "free". No cellular data. <input type="checkbox"/> Disable "home" local wireless off hours (e.g. between 11pm-6am). No internet-enabled devices in bedrooms or at the dinner table; use primarily in public areas in the home. 		<p>Goal: Have continual healthy dialogue about benefits & dangers in Technology. Establish mutual accountability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explain issuing a "dumb" phone (even though all their friends have cellular data on their smartphones), explain why a filtered browser is necessary. <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded internet access to include social media. All accounts to be provided to parents. Lots & lots of conversation around appropriate use & the privacy controls in place (e.g. FB). <input type="checkbox"/> "Documented social media accounts" does not mean you as the parent should be snooping; it is only a way to build implied accountability. E.g. on monthly basis sit down together on the shared laptop, login with your documented account information, check browser history, and discuss what is on their Facebook feed. Be open with your computer use; e.g. jointly review your browser history. 		<p>Goal: Build upon the prior stage & have your kid(s) understand the responsibility that comes with cellular data and an individual computer. Help them develop a plan to manage the challenges of Technology use at college/on-their-own.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Big step into an individual smartphone with cellular data. <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend iPhone (iOS) following the same security & filtering steps as before with iOS devices. <input type="checkbox"/> For cellular data devices, additional filtering required. Limit cellular data devices due to complexity of filtering. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep the conversation going... 	

