

PARENTS' GUIDE TO SMART PHONE SAFETY

SMART OR SCARY?

Smartphones are essentially little computers, so you might be a little worried when handing one over to your child. Take some time to understand the risks and implement a few safeguards so that you can help your child use smartphones safely.



THE RISKS

▪ CYBERBULLYING

With the constant connectivity of smartphones, your child may be more susceptible to cyberbullying or have more opportunities to cyberbully others.

▪ GEOLOCATION

A GPS-enabled smartphone can reveal your child's location through online posts and uploaded photos.

▪ INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With smartphones, your child has mobile access to content you may consider inappropriate, such as pornography or violent videos.

▪ SEXTING

Your child may use the Internet and social apps to send, receive, or forward revealing photos.

▪ VIRUSES & MALWARE

Just like a computer, a smartphone is vulnerable to security attacks if your child accesses unsecured websites and apps.

5 WAYS TO BE SMARTER THAN THE SMARTPHONE!

1. Be a parent and a resource.

Establish clear guidelines, including time limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior, but be open so your child will come to you with any problems.

2. Set up password protection.

This will keep everyone but you and your child from accessing personal information stored on the phone.

3. Update the operating system.

New versions often contain important security fixes.

4. Approve apps before they are downloaded.

Make sure you understand their capabilities and approve their content.

5. Understand location services.

GPS features are useful when using maps, but you'll want to disable location-tagging when your child posts anything online.

For more resources visit NetSmartz.org/TipSheets

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NetSmartz Workshop

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TECHNOLOGY USE CONTRACT

CHILD EXPECTATIONS:

1. I will not share any personal information, including date of birth, name, address, phone number or specifics about what school I attend. I recognize that sharing such information could lead to harm if it gets in the hands of someone who intends to hurt me. I fully recognize the threat this is to my safety.
2. In all of my online communications, I will be respectful of others and will never embarrass, humiliate, threaten or bully anyone. My communications will always be truthful, encouraging and helpful.
3. I will never use vulgar or sexually explicit language, and if someone begins using such language with me, I will immediately refuse further communication.
4. I recognize there is no such thing as real privacy when on the Internet. I understand any content I post about myself or anyone else on the Internet can be distributed across the world without my knowledge or permission. Even if I intend such communication to be private, I have no guarantee that will be the case.
5. I understand that while I am communicating with persons whom I don't know, they are able to deceive me and may not be truthful about who they are and their intentions.
6. I will not post information on any of the social networking website such as MySpace, YouTube, Facebook, etc. without first discussing it with you and getting your permission.
7. I have earned your trust by obeying you as my parent(s) and I have every intention of continuing to do so. I willingly enter this agreement to be held accountable to you. By following these principles, we have agreed I will continue to enjoy the privilege of using Internet technology.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

1. I will respect my child's privacy when he/she is using the Internet or other technology.
2. If I have a concern, I have the right to access their online accounts and/or website logs.

If the child violates this contract, then he/she will receive the following consequence(s):



Child Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



Pointing Kids in the Right Direction
www.KidPointz.com



READY, SET, INTERNET

FAMILY CONTRACT

The parents in our family will *always*:

- Keep the computer in a common area of the house such as the family room or kitchen.
- Use filters and other parental control software to protect our children.
- Monitor the amount of time our children spend on the Internet.
- Monitor conversations our children have on the Internet and get to know their friends.
- Take the time to train and encourage our children to use the Internet wisely.
- Maintain access to our children's profiles on social networking sites by requiring them to "friend" us.
- Share an email account with our children until they are old enough to be trusted with their own.
- Know our children's e-mail addresses and passwords.

The kids in our family will *never*:

- Share personal information such as their name, address, phone number, school, teams, age, etc. with anyone online.
- Engage in any form of cyber-bullying; we will treat others online as we would like to be treated.
- Send, forward, or respond to mean or threatening messages.
- Meet anyone in person that we met online without our parents' permission.
- Buy anything online without our parents' permission.
- Download games, movies, music, or programs without our parents' permission.
- Give our passwords to anyone but our parents.
- Join social networks without our parents' permission.
- Post or send pictures or videos online without our parents' permission.

The kids in our family will *always*:

- Tell our parents if anyone says or does anything online that makes us uncomfortable or upsets us.
- Give our parents permission to see what we do on the Internet and give them the passwords to all our accounts.
- Keep our parents as "friends" on all social network sites of which we are members.
- Tell our parents if we see anything on a website that makes us uncomfortable or is inappropriate.

Children:

I understand that access to the Internet is a privilege that I must earn by being responsible and trustworthy. I will follow this contract whether I am at home or on a computer somewhere else.

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Parents:

I understand that it is my responsibility to protect my children from danger on the Internet and to train them to use the Internet wisely.

Signed _____

Signed _____

