

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HERO!

HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN ABOUT HOW TO BE SAFE ONLINE

Age Appropriate Conversation Starters:

ELEMENTARY

- The internet is a BIG place and not everything we see is meant for kids. If we see something online that is not okay, it is important that we talk to a trusted adult such as our parent or caregiver.
- Some information is private and can be dangerous to share online. If a game or website asks for your personal information, we need to ask for permission from our caregiver before sharing.
- Not everyone online is a safe person, even if they seem nice and friendly. When playing video games or using social media, it is best to only interact with people we know in real life.
- If a stranger online or on video games asks you personal questions, asks you to send pictures or does anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, talk to your trusted adult and show them any messages or interactions.
- You deserve to have a safe and fun space on the internet. If anyone is making hurtful comments or is being a bully, you can block them. Sometimes even if you block someone, their mean comments and actions still hurt. You have lots of people in your life that care about you and want to help. Talk about your feelings with your caregiver, teacher, counselor, or other adult.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Online, everyone has a digital reputation. Your digital reputation, or digital footprint, is essentially a history of everything you've ever done online.
- Even if you delete a post or picture from the web or a device, once it is shared or posted online, anyone can save or re-share your post; it can remain permanent. A great rule is to not share anything online you would be embarrassed to share with EVERYONE.
- People may want to start a friendship with you for the purpose of hurting you. When playing video games or using social media, it is best to only interact with people we know in real life. If a stranger online does or says things that make you feel uncomfortable, talk to a trusted adult.

HIGH SCHOOL

- Sexting is sending or receiving nude/revealing photos or sexually explicit texts. Sometimes teens sext because they feel like their phone gives them the privacy and freedom to do what they want, or it feels adventurous. Sexting, however, can have dangerous consequences. Pressuring someone to send revealing photos, re-sharing private content or sending unsolicited sexual images can have serious criminal consequences.
- If someone online makes a promise that is too good to be true such as making large sums of money, getting a car or a place of your own in exchange for working for him/her, that may be a scam or exploitation.
- A person that cares about you in a healthy relationship, should not be pressuring you to do something dangerous or something you do not want to do. If that occurs, put yourself first and talk to a trusted adult to help you handle this situation.



**CHECK OUT OUR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
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FOR MORE RESOURCES!**

