

The best tool we have to prevent Internet Crimes Against Children is education.

HOW TO PROTECT CHILDREN

Monitor your child's computer and phone usage.

Know what apps your child is using.

Know your child's username and passwords.

Control access to chat rooms or instant messaging.

Educate yourself about digital devices, apps, and the internet.

HOW CHILDREN CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES

Do not give out personal information or arrange face to face meeting with someone you have met online.

Do not take, keep, or send inappropriate pictures of yourself or others.

Remember that online posts are forever. Do not post images or comments that you would not want to see on a job or college application.

For invaluable information for both parents and children we recommend <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz>

The CCPD Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Homeland Security Investigations and Texas Department of Public Safety continually strive to protect the children of the Corpus Christi and surrounding communities from these online predators. The CCPD Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force would like to remind parents and guardians to be diligent in monitoring their children's online activities on all electronic devices.

We want to urge parents to speak to their children about internet safety.

- Create and set clear rules for your child and enforce those rules.
- Know about privacy settings and ensure that your child uses them.
- Speak to your child about the danger of befriending those that they do not know.
- Contact law enforcement if the child reports being solicited, threatened, stalked, or if a person requests to meet the child in person.
- Ensure that the child does not give out any personal information about themselves, whether it be identifying information or personality tr

Parenting Tips for Online Safety

Did you know that today is Safer Internet Day? Let's start the conversation about SMART Parenting Tips for Online Safety. There are resources and support available to help you.

We want to work together for a Safer Internet for our children.

SETUP DEVICES, ACCOUNTS AND PASSWORDS.

It is important for parents to know how to set up their children's devices for several reasons. Overall, knowing how to set up a device empowers parents to create a safe and healthy digital environment for their kids. It allows them to strike a balance between protecting their children and allowing them to explore the online world in a responsible and beneficial way. While knowing how to use parental controls and security features is essential, it goes beyond technical knowledge. Parents should also be familiar with current online trends, dangers, and age-appropriate content to effectively guide and advise their children on safe and responsible digital citizenship. Remember, technology evolves rapidly, so it is important for parents to stay informed and adapt their strategies as needed to ensure their children's continued safety and well-being in the digital world.

MONITOR ALL ONLINE USE AND CONNECTIONS.

Monitoring your children's online use and connections isn't about spying, it's about striking a crucial balance between protecting them from potential harm and fostering their digital independence. Monitoring your children's online use and connections is an ongoing process, an investment in their safety, well-being, and digital citizenship. By striking the right balance and focusing on open communication, you can empower your children to navigate the online world safely and confidently.

APPROVE ALL GAMES AND APPS.

Parents' approval of their children's apps and games is crucial for several reasons and goes beyond simply saying "yes" or "no." It's about creating a safe and enriching digital environment that fosters safety, security, healthy development, trust and communication. Approving apps together creates opportunities for open communication about online activities. Discuss the reasons behind your decisions, explain potential risks, and set expectations for responsible use. This builds trust and strengthens parent-child relationships.

RESTRICT CONNECTIONS AND PERMISSIONS.

It's incredibly important for parents to restrict their child's access to inappropriate content. It's about creating a safe and age-appropriate online environment where children can explore and learn while being protected from potential harm. Here are some helpful approaches:

- Open communication: Talk to your children about the dangers of inappropriate content and set clear expectations for their online behavior.
- Parental control tools: Utilize parental control features offered by devices and platforms to filter content, limit screen time, and monitor online activity.
- Age-appropriate resources: Choose websites, apps, and games specifically designed for children's age and developmental needs.

TALK – START THE CONVERSATION AND TEACH YOUR CHILDREN.

Open and repeated conversations are your most powerful tool for online safety. By prioritizing open and repeated conversations about online safety, you can equip your children with the knowledge, skills, and

confidence they need to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. Think of it as an investment in their future, just like teaching them any other important life skill. Technology and online trends evolve rapidly, making it impossible for parents to know everything. Having ongoing conversations about online safety allows you to stay updated on the latest trends, apps, and challenges kids might face. You can adjust your guidance accordingly. Remember, these conversations don't have to be one-sided lectures. Here are some tips for making them more engaging and effective:

- Start early and adapt the conversation to your child's age and development.
- Make it a natural part of everyday life, not just a one-time event.
- Ask open-ended questions and actively listen to their concerns.
- Use real-life examples and relatable scenarios to illustrate your points.
- Focus on teaching them strategies for staying safe, not just scaring them.
- Be open to learning from them as well.

If you would like to schedule a presentation for Internet Safety for your school or group, please call our Internet Crimes Against Children Detectives at 361-826-2994, 361-826-2995 or 361-826-2996.

For additional information and resources, please see:

<https://www.icactaskforce.org/Pages/InternetSafety.aspx>

<https://saferinternetday.us/>