

Securing Your Kid's Digital Footprint



As a parent, one of the biggest challenges in the modern age is providing a safe and secure environment to help your children thrive in the world. Now, an increasingly large part of that is helping your children navigate and prepare for their life as a citizen of the digital world. Learning how to use the Internet safely early on is essential to developing good, safe online practises.



Five tips to safeguard your kid's future online

KEEP YOUR COMPUTERS AND DEVICES SAFE AND SECURE:

Hackers can steal your child's data from unsecured devices, along with your own. Keep security software up to date and run malware checks on devices regularly. ALWAYS use a **Virtual Private Network (VPN)** to connect to public, and unsecured, wireless networks.



DO YOUR RESEARCH:

Utilize resources like **Common Sense Media** to learn more about age-appropriate apps, programs, and websites. Very little proof is required to have an app labeled as "educational" on The App Store, so beware of marketing labels. Check reviews by mainstream media and research the companies behind the products or services. All the main browsers have parental add-ons that can be downloaded, and advanced security settings and content filters in their options menus. Alternatively, you can download a **browser designed specifically for children.**



RAISE GOOD CITIZENS OF THE WEB:

Lead by example. Hate, trolling, and bullying have no place in the real, or digital world, so show them the way. Today's children will have a very long, and very public record online. Basically, whatever you or they write, say, or do will be with you and your family forever in the digital world. Whether they're using the Internet for games, social media, or school work, explore everything together first so you can set the right security precautions together.



TEACH CHILDREN EARLY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ONLINE PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY:

Just like the real world, predators and scammers lurk in the shadows of the digital world. These unscrupulous types hang around in social apps and online communities aimed at kids. Instill the risks of making friends online. Children are trusting, and believe people are who they say they are. Warn them against talking to strangers, and particularly ensure they never arrange to meet up with anyone they only know online.



BE A PART OF YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE IDENTITY:

Register your kid's domain name and build a website together. In an online environment controlled by you, share in your child's first online experience expressing their digital creative side, while limiting outside communication access. **Add security features to their website** to protect all the personal data, and make it less vulnerable to attacks from hackers.

Make Securing Your Kid's Digital Footprint a Priority Today!