

CYBER SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

The world is at their fingertips, so let's keep an eye on them
John Parsons C21



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ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF YOUNGER CHILDREN

• When taking pictures of your children, ask their permission. Then turn the camera around and ask them if they like the picture or not. If they don't, offer to delete it. The sooner we give children the right to control their own identity the sooner we will 'power them up' to protect it.

• When you go to weddings, barbecues and other family events, give your child your phone/camera and let them be the official photographer at the party. Teach them to ask permission of the guests before taking the picture. This will show your child from a young age that someone's identity is important.

• Teach your children not to post pictures online of themselves sitting in their bedroom. Their bedroom is their private sanctuary, a place to feel safe. If it is exposed online, they may appear vulnerable.

• Teach them never to ignore their 'butterflies' and their gut feelings. When they do get butterflies, let them know the butterflies are their friends trying to help them. Teach them in these moments to take a deep breath and tell you what is worrying them.

• Teach them if they see something on a computer that upsets them or worries them to simply close the lid or just look away from the screen and come and tell you. Let them know you will give them a big hug for telling someone they trust.

• Don't let your child surf the internet indiscriminately. Just as we don't want young people visiting certain locations in towns or cities, we should regard the internet in the same way. Paedophiles use specific techniques to attract minors to them. Get your child to think about creating a road map before they go online. Ask them to tell you who or what they are visiting.



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