

# ARE YOUR KIDS USING THEIR TECH DEVICES SAFELY & SECURELY?

*By Jennifer Regan*



Kids will use technology, and this is nothing for parents to fear. Nonetheless, there are several features to be concerned over. As such, you need to ensure that your son or daughter is using their devices in a safe manner at all times. Are Your Kids Using Their Tech Devices Safely & Securely? Being aware of the dangers will give you the very best hope of staying on the right track. Aside from protecting your child, it should put your mind at ease too.

**Danger #1:** Inappropriate Content: The internet is an incredible thing that allows users to access a world of information within a matter of seconds. This makes it one of the most valuable learning tools for any youngster. However, in addition to all the data that you're happy for them to access, there is a lot of adult content that all parents want to shield their kids from. Online predators are definitely something that you want to shield children from. But websites that teach propaganda or encourage kids to act in a way that conflicts with your parenting are equally dangerous. Therefore, utilizing and customizing parental controls is vital. Be sure to discuss this with your broadband provider.

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**Danger #2: Identity Thief** - The prospect of having personal and financial details stolen are the biggest fear of any adult. In truth, though, children and teenagers need to be protected from the associated threats too. The harsh reality is that hackers and fraudsters have no qualms about targeting kids and have no care about the damage their actions will cause. Gaming is one area where youngsters are at particular risk as they frivolously agree to Ts&Cs and download files. They need to become more aware of safe gaming practices, and you should be the one to teach them. On a similar note, you need to now that they will use public networks in an appropriate fashion. If they leave themselves open to potential danger, it will happen. There are plenty of ways to protect their accounts, devices, and personal details. Multi-step verification across several devices is a particularly efficient method. Meanwhile, encouraging them to disclose the minimal amount of personal data on all accounts should help.

**Danger #3: Abusive Behavior** In addition to spyware, ransomware, and viruses, some hackers may try to lure kids into providing personal info. This can be done through pretending to be the police, a friend, a crush, or many other ways. There have been many stories of kids being cat-fished in one way or another. As a parent, you must educate them. Moreover, they should feel confident in telling you about the issues. Other forms of abusive behavior are equally damaging to your child. Social media bullying has become something of an epidemic, leading to a severe spike in childhood suicide. It's vital that you learn to understand the signs that your son or daughter may be on the receiving end of abuse. Otherwise, the impacts will start to alter the behavior and confidence in a serious way.

**Danger #4: Addiction:** While it's natural to worry about the external threats posed by dangerous content and other web users, the biggest danger is an internal one. Tech addiction, normally characterized by internet or gaming addictions, is one of the worst problems facing today's youth. As a loving parent, you must take the necessary steps to ensure that a sense of balance is established. Children need to become tech-literate in the modern age, but a reliance on devices is not healthy. Encouraging them to play educational games, or do productive things like make music is advised. When they fall into the trap of refreshing social media every few seconds, they can start to forget their hobbies and schoolwork. This is nothing short of a disaster. If your child shows the signs of addiction, such as failing to engage with their real-world surroundings, you must act ASAP. One of the best solutions is to set a curfew for when all devices should be turned off. This will help your ~~child relax~~ and get a better night's sleep too.

