



12-14
years old

Digital Safety
Basics

Tips for Raising Responsible Digital Citizens

Becoming a digital citizen means taking responsibility for the ways in which we communicate online. But before children can earn their digital citizenship, they should have guidance from parents and educators on how to safely and successfully navigate technology.

Good, safe online behavior begins at home, and continues in the classroom and in the homes of friends and extended family. Here are a few tips on how to raise responsible digital citizens:

- 1 Model good behavior.** Turn off your mobile phones and electronic devices during dinner or while participating in family activities. Children will feel more compelled to follow rules if everyone in the family abides by them.
- 2 Pay attention.** Know where your kids go online and what they're doing there.
- 3 Impart your values.** Cheating, lying and being cruel online are not acceptable. The concepts of right and wrong should extend to a child's online and mobile life.
- 4 Establish limits.** Set clear time or texting limits and time of day restrictions so children know when it's appropriate to use mobile phones or technology.
- 5 Encourage balance.** Support their interest in offline activities that don't require a gadget or mobile device.
- 6 Make kids accountable.** Using digital media is a privilege. Consider asking your child to complete more essential tasks, like chores, homework or family time, before letting him get on the internet or text with friends.
- 7 Explain what's at stake.** Remind kids that what they do today can be used against them tomorrow, especially when their actions are online.
- 8 Do your homework.** Research the websites your kids visit, the songs they download, etc. Stay tuned into how and why they're using technology so they don't have free reign. Consider setting up social media profiles to see how your children interact online and to help demonstrate responsible use.

