



15-17
years old

Digital Safety
Basics

Teaching Kids the Good (Digital) Life

POWER + RESPONSIBILITY

The internet, texting and social networking are realities of teen life today. While all of these things can be misused, they also have the potential for being powerful tools when used responsibly.

5 KEY FACTS OF DIGITAL LIFE

- ▶ **Kids can be creators.** It's all about participating; communicating; making music, images and videos; and posting written content. But kids should also be able to tell whether or not existing content is credible.
- ▶ **Everything happens in front of a vast, invisible and often anonymous audience.**
- ▶ **Everything leaves a digital footprint.**
- ▶ **Information cannot be controlled.** Anything can be copied, changed and shared instantly.
- ▶ **Distance and anonymity separate actions and consequences.** Kids sometimes think they can get away with unethical or unacceptable behavior, because they don't see immediate consequences.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP TIPS FOR TEENS

Here are five simple rules of digital citizenship to help your kids create a world they can be proud of and to inspire others to do the same:

- ▶ **Think before you post or text. A bad reputation could be just a click away.**
- ▶ **What goes around comes around.** If you want your privacy respected, respect others' privacy. Posting an embarrassing photo or forwarding a friend's private text without asking can cause unintended hurt or damage to others.
- ▶ **Spread love, not hate.** If you wouldn't say it in person, don't say it online. Stand up for those who are bullied or harassed, and let them know that you're there for them.
- ▶ **Give and get credit.** We're all proud of what we create. Illegal downloading, digital cheating, and cutting and pasting other people's stuff may be easy, but that doesn't make it right. You have the responsibility to respect other people's creative work, as well as the right to have your own work respected.
- ▶ **Make this a world you want to live in.** Spread the good stuff. Create, share, tag, comment and contribute to the online world in positive ways.



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