

Using Wireless Devices More Safely



Tips for Parents and Guardians

1. Set appropriate ground rules for your children's use of wireless devices. Decide who they may communicate with and how they may use these devices.
2. Monitor your wireless bill to keep track of the amount of time and time of the day or night your children spend using these devices, and with whom they communicate. Pay attention to numbers or messages from people you do not recognize or have not approved.
3. Teach your children to tell you if anyone sends them a threatening or frightening message. Also teach them how to block unwanted calls and messages. If your children are being stalked, harassed, or threatened in any way, report the incident to your service provider and local law-enforcement agency. If the material is lewd, obscene, or illegal also report it to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline® at www.cybertipline.com or **1-800-843-5678**.
4. Remind your children messages may be intercepted or used by others. Teach them to use appropriate language in their messages and not to reveal personal or identifying information. Explain to them the potential consequences of sending sexually explicit or provocative images of themselves or others.
5. Know your children's passwords and assist them in setting up their account. Think about setting controls to block calls from numbers you have not approved.
6. Consider creating settings to control or prohibit access to the Internet, e-mail, and messaging through your children's wireless devices. Also consider disabling the wireless device's camera feature. A global-positioning system (GPS) option, if offered by your service provider, could be used to help locate your children if they become lost.
7. Monitor your children's wireless use just as you do their online computer use. Keep the lines of communication open with your children so they will be more likely to tell you if they have concerns about someone contacting them or information they have received.

Tips for Parents and Guardians to Discuss With/Teach Children

1. Never share your wireless number and personal or identifying information with anyone you don't know well and trust and without my permission. Respect your friends' privacy by never sharing their contact, identifying, or personal information.
2. Never use your wireless device to take, send, or post images or videos of your friends without permission from their parents or guardians. Taking or sharing embarrassing or inappropriate images or videos of someone is a form of bullying and harassment and could have legal implications.
3. Never share your passwords with anyone other than me. Keep your passwords private.
4. Never give photographs of yourself to anyone without my permission. Never send sexually provocative images or messages. Once you send images to another person or post them online you can never get them back.
5. Never respond to threatening or frightening calls, messages, or images. If you receive any tell me or another trusted adult, and we'll report the incident to the appropriate agency.
6. Never exchange calls or messages with people you don't know well and trust, and before responding think, "Is my reply hurtful or rude?" Use of wireless technology doesn't guarantee privacy.
7. Explore how to use the features on the wireless device. This is a great opportunity for parents, guardians, and children to have a conversation about using the device more safely.

Visit www.NetSmartz411.org or call **1-888-NETS411 (638-7411)** to learn more about better protecting children when online. If you have information to help in the fight against child sexual exploitation please report it to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at www.cybertipline.com or **1-800-843-5678**.