ONLINE SAFETY FOR KIDS

Talk to Your Kids

When your children begin accessing information online, it is important to talk with them about best practices.

The online world can feel anonymous, and kids sometimes forget that they are still accountable for their actions. Kids also may not be aware that some people online have bad intentions including bullies, predators, hackers, scammers, and people sharing inappropriate content.

The best way to keep kids safe online is to start early initiating conversations about being online, and discuss the topic often in conversation.

Create an honest, open environment: Be supportive and positive as you listen and respond to their feelings. You may not have all the answers, and being honest about that can go a long way.

Communicate your values: Be upfront about your values and how they apply online. This will help kids make thoughtful decisions when they face tricky situations.

Be patient: Resist the urge to rush through conversations with kids. Most children need to hear information repeated in small doses for it to sink in. As you keep talking, be sure to keep the lines of communication open so your child will feel more comfortable approaching you with questions or letting you know if they've done something wrong online.

Information adapted from the Federal Trade Commission