

Protecting Your Child on the Internet!

Tips from Extension Richland County:

1. Wait until your child is 14 before providing them with their own smartphone. Resources from "[Wait 'til 8th](#)" explains why.
2. Apply filters & apps to protect your children on any internet enabled devices they have access to. For examples of parental monitoring apps, etc. see: www.tigermobiles.com/blog/how-to-protect-your-children-on-their-smartphone/ and <https://cyberbullying.org/parental-monitoring-apps-cyberbullying-review-recommendations>
3. Establish a "[technology use contract](#)" for child using any internet devices. They should only use apps with your permission.
4. Research and understand the apps your child wants to use. See list from: <https://cyberbullying.org/most-popular-social-media-apps>
5. Explain the following to your child:
 - Assume that EVERYONE has access to your profile (parents, teachers, future employers, and law enforcement) even if you have your profile restricted to "friends only."
 - USE DISCRETION when putting pictures, videos (or any content for that matter) on your profile. Also remember that when your friend (or a stranger) takes your picture it may end up on their profile for all to see.
 - Assume people WILL use the information on your profile to cause you harm. Don't put anything online you wouldn't want your worst enemy to know. Also, don't add people as "friends" unless you know them in real life.
 - Assume there are predators out there trying to FIND YOU based on the information you provide on your profile.
 - You may be held responsible for inappropriate content on your profile that is in violation of the Terms of Service or Acceptable Use Policies.

Original document: <https://cyberbullying.org/safe-and-responsible-social-networking-strategies-for-keeping-yourself-safe-online>

Please report issues of cyberbullying or inappropriate internet use to your child's school administration.

For more information, contact Extension Educator, Chelsea Wunnicke.
Email: chelsea.wunnicke@wisc.edu or by phone: 608-647-6148.