

The following instructions provide a general guideline for improved protection when using social media on mobile devices. Please refer to your specific operating system and hardware releases.

Two methods may be implemented for managing children's social media usage:

1. Usage agreement
2. Monitors and controls

Usage agreements may include voluntary non-usage periods (homework, bedtime) or the surrendering of devices.

Parents can examine the child's mobile usage by logging into the account at the provider. As well, monitoring and control features can be utilized through a range of apps, including:

- FamilyTime - Texts, calls, browsing, contacts, location, app control and usage. Free and paid.
- Mobicip Safe Browser - Time limits, content filtering, browsing, app usage. Free and paid.
- TeenSafe - Texts, calls, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Kik, web browsing and searches, contacts and location. Paid.

If you have not already, consider creating an account in one or all of the social media services used by your child. Two approaches can be taken – openly follow and communicate with your child through the service, or monitor your child and their friends' accounts anonymously.

Enforce the requirement for you to have all of your child's passwords, while they share none with their friends.

Place a message on the lock screen where you could be reached if your device gets lost, the finder may try to return it to you.

Password-protect each of device screens, app purchase and control, and social media accounts.

Screen lock

iOS: Settings > (Touch ID &) Passcode > Turn Passcode On

Android: Settings > My Device > Lock Screen > Screen lock > PIN

App purchase and control

iOS: Settings > General > Restrictions

Android: Google Play > Menu > Settings > Require authentication for purchases

For social media accounts, create a password of 12+ characters, uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, symbols.

Bad: '123456', 'password', 'qwerty', username, first name, pet's name, etc...

Good: Mango%9i5druM

Mobile device users can be tracked and the location of their photos identified through Location Services. Disable this until such a time as you need it. Then enable it, then disable when finished.

iOS: Settings > Privacy > Location Services

Android: Settings > ... More > Location Services

Discourage children from expressing inflammatory opinions in social media, as well as revealing confidential information – vacations, financial, family problems, etc. Parents should refrain from exposing seemingly innocent family photos and information; 'practice what you preach'.

The majority of apps spy on personal information on your device and in your accounts. Utilize available restrictions on this privacy invasion on a per app basis:

iOS: Settings > (app) Settings; deny permission(s)

Android: Research and download a compatible permission manager, i.e. 'AppOps'. Open AppOps > Device > (app) > deny permission

Implore children to report online bullying to you. It will not end otherwise.

Perhaps the most urgent social media concepts for children to embrace are the scope and duration of postings. At the beginning of high school, impress upon them that university/college and business recruiters search applicants' social media footprint. Children should remove any ill-advised postings and discontinue such bad habits immediately.

Do you share photos with family and friends but would like to avoid including anonymous strangers? Please read 'Precious Memories' at www.stevechappelle.ca.

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