

PARENTS' GUIDETO SMARTPHONE SAFETY

SMARTORSCARY?

Smartphones are essentially little computers, so you might be a little worried when handing one over to your child. Take some time to understand the risks and implement a few safeguards so that you can help your child use smartphones safely.

THE RISKS

5 WAYS TO BE SMARTER THAN THE SMARTPHONE!

- **CYBERBULLYING**
With the constant connectivity of smartphones, your child may be more susceptible to cyberbullying or have more opportunities to cyberbully others.
 - **GEOLOCATION**
A GPS-enabled smartphone can reveal your child's location through online posts and uploaded photos.
 - **INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
With smartphones, your child has mobile access to content you may consider inappropriate, such as pornography or violent videos.
 - **SEXTING**
Your child may use the Internet and social apps to send, receive, or forward revealing photos.
 - **VIRUSES & MALWARE**
Just like a computer, a smartphone is vulnerable to security attacks if your child accesses unsecured websites and apps.
1. **Be a parent and a resource.**
Establish clear guidelines, including time limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior, but be open so your child will come to you with any problems.
 2. **Set up password protection.**
This will keep everyone but you and your child from accessing personal information stored on the phone.
 3. **Update the operating system.**
New versions often contain important security fixes.
 4. **Approve apps before they are downloaded.**
Make sure you understand their capabilities and approve their content.
 5. **Understand location services.**
GPS features are useful when using maps, but you'll want to disable location-tagging when your child posts anything online.



About 1 in 4 teens report owning a smartphone.

Lehart, Amanda
Teens, Smartphones & Texting
Few Internet & American Life Project,
March 19, 2012

For more resources visit NetSmartz.org/TipSheets

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