

5 THINGS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT KIDS ONLINE THIS SUMMER

Keeping track of kids' online activities can be difficult, especially during the summer when kids are out of school and can spend even more time online. With these challenges in mind, here are some helpful tips for parents this summer:

Keep Kids Active

Providing kids with some sort of organized activity, like summer sports leagues or music lessons, will help keep them active and offline. Choose an activity they'll actually want to attend, whether it's a language mini-camp or a summer lacrosse league.

The Smartphone is King

You may think having parental controls on your family computer is enough, but increasingly, smartphones are the primary device kids use to access the Internet. Make sure you keep an eye on their smartphones; ask about the different apps they use, what they're for and which social media sites they're active on.

Facebook Is Out

Today's teens know Facebook is where their parents go to check on them, so they make sure their profiles reflect them in the best light possible. They use Facebook to keep in touch with relatives and share family photos, but head to emerging social networks to communicate with their friends.

Cyberbullying

Social networking has enabled bullying to follow kids 24 hours a day all summer long. A recent study from nobullying.com found over half of young people report being victims of cyberbullying. If you suspect your child is being cyberbullied, it's important to have an open, informed conversation. ThirdParent can help; we work with families to locate where teens are active online and monitor for cyberbullying and other threats.

Turn Off Location Information

Make sure your kids turn off the location information on their smartphones and other devices. These settings, sometimes labeled "Location Services" or "My Location," allow apps like Twitter and Facebook to track your child's location and include that information in status updates. Ensuring these settings are off will make it harder for strangers to know where they are, which is especially important when they're out of school.



ThirdParent specializes in Internet safety for teens and kids. Created by parents for parents, ThirdParent provides discreet, professional monitoring and reporting of online activity to help safeguard kids and their reputations, today and in the years to come.



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