

PARENTS' GUIDE TO SMART PHONE SAFETY

SMART OR SCARY?

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

- **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.

5WAYS TO BE SMARTER THAN THE SMARTPHONE!

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 smart security.**
   Smartphones today include a variety of security mechanisms including fingerprint scans, facial recognition and password locks. Enable these to protect access to the phone as well as apps with sensitive data.
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.

For more resources visit MissingKids.org/NetSmartz/Resources

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