

# Parent Tech Talks

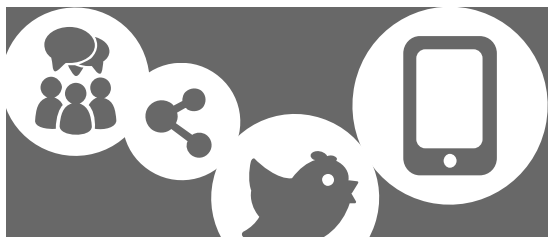
Scripts for Each Age and Stage of Life



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## Just SAY IT!

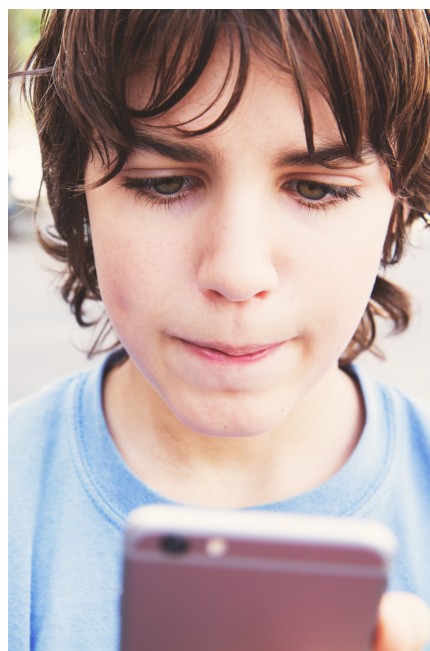
Saying the right things at the right times is the most critical element of an effective internet safety strategy.

That's right. It's not how well you understand Snapchat (although you should), but instead **how well you have conversations about Snapchat.**

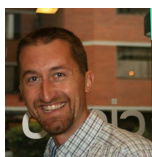
When I was growing up, the conversation about the birds and the bees was called "the talk," because it happened in one awkward evening, ending with both parties exiting the room both dazed and more confused.

The digital age begs parents to speak more often about hard and awkward things. Now that the doorways to inappropriate content are around every corner on smart devices, parents must be relentless in what they say to counter the tidal wave of shallow, distorted and instant answers offered by Google or Yahoo.

For years, I've reminded my own parents that they had it pretty easy when they raised me. I was a great kid compared to my siblings! But, it truly is harder to be a parent in the digital age. The Internet does not rest. And neither can we.



**Parents, you can do this!** I hope the following pages are a blessing.



Chris McKenna  
Founder, [protectyoungeyes.com](http://protectyoungeyes.com)

## Pre-School Stage

- websites are limited, heavily filtered
- never uses the Internet alone

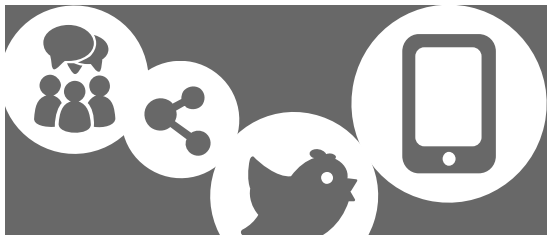
Key Phrase: Everything that we do online, we do together.

Remember, no matter what we do, all kids will eventually see something on the internet that is inappropriate. Our primary role as parents and caring adults is to EQUIP kids to know what to do when this happens. This is why the conversations we have with our kids are so, so important, starting in elementary school. It is naïve to think kids won't see anything inappropriate under your watch. The kids who navigate our digital culture well are the ones who know what to do WHEN they see something inappropriate.

### Phrases for the Pre-School Stage

- "There are some weird things on the Internet, and I want to protect you because I love you. That's why you never use the [tablet, etc.] without permission from mom or dad."
- "We've talked about strangers, and that we never talk to strangers. The same thing is true on the Internet. If someone ever talks to you that seems like a stranger, you come tell mom or dad about it right away, ok?"
- "What are you watching? Let's watch it together!"
- **"If you ever see anything on the tablet that seems weird or scary, promise to tell me about it, ok?"**





### Phrases for the Pre-School Stage (cont.)

- “You know how mom and dad have talked to you about private parts, and that we keep them private. We don’t take pictures of them or show them to other people. If you ever see private parts of other people, in real life or on the tablet, just tell me about it, ok? I’ll never be mad you told me.”
- **“Let’s practice - if you ever see anything weird or bad online, just put it down, and tell someone. Can we practice that?”**





## Elementary Stage

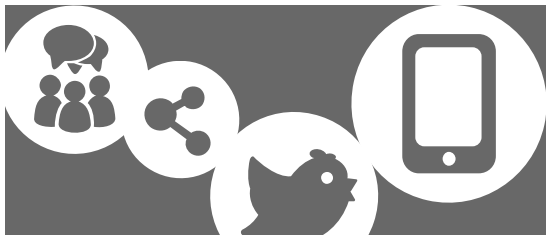
- websites are limited, heavily filtered
- rarely uses the Internet alone
- is not ready for social media

Key Phrase: The Internet is an awesome thing, if you use it awesomely!

Remember, no matter what we do, all kids will eventually see something on the internet that is inappropriate. Our primary role as parents and caring adults is to EQUIP kids to know what to do when this happens. This is why the conversations we have with our kids are so, so important, starting in elementary school. It is naïve to think kids won't see anything inappropriate under your watch. The kids who navigate our digital culture well are the ones who know what to do WHEN they see something inappropriate.

### Phrases for the Elementary Stage

- "What are you watching? Can I watch it with you?"
- "We don't use technology during [fill in the blank]" (in other words, start to create tech-free zones and times)
- "There are over 1 billion websites. That's a HUGE number! Because it's so big, I want to help you use the Internet well. Pretty much everything you do online, let's do it together, ok?"
- **"Have you ever seen anything on Google or your tablet that you weren't sure about? Maybe at a friend's house?" (ask this often)**



### Phrases for the Elementary Stage (cont.)

- "You know we have fun together taking selfies and family pictures with mom's phone. But, I want you to know that sometimes people share bad pictures or videos that show people without their clothing on. Have you ever seen anything like that? If you ever saw a bad picture, just put it down, walk away, and tell me about it as soon as you can, ok? I'll never be mad you told me."
- **"Let's practice - if you ever see anything weird or bad online, just put it down, and tell someone. Can we practice that?"**
- "We don't ever share personal information, like our phone number or address with anyone, ever, no matter how friendly they sound."
- "If anyone ever asks you to keep a secret online, that person might not be your friend. If that ever happens, please come tell me or [another designated person] right away, ok?"
- "Did you know that there are people on the internet who are lying about who they are? Just like you don't talk to strangers on the street, don't ever talk to strangers on the internet."
- **"Did you know that as you parent, I have access to your device anytime? This is our house rule."**







## Middle School Stage

- might be ready for social media
- no unsupervised app store access
- good filtering with monitoring

Key Phrase: How I use the Internet has a massive impact on my life.

Remember, no matter what we do, all kids will eventually see something on the internet that is inappropriate. Our primary role as parents and caring adults is to EQUIP kids to know what to do when this happens. This is why the conversations we have with our kids are so, so important, starting in elementary school. It is naïve to think kids won't see anything inappropriate under your watch. The kids who navigate our digital culture well are the ones who know what to do WHEN they see something inappropriate.

### Phrases for the Middle School Stage

- "You know that phrase, "Practice makes perfect!" **Let's practice something. What would you say to a friend who wanted to show you pornography?** Maybe you could turn away and say, "I don't want to see that!" Or, maybe you could remind your friends that pornography is usually tied to slavery and sex trafficking of little kids. Who would ever want to be tied to something so horrible?"
- **"Have you ever seen or read anything on social media or an app that made you uncomfortable?"**





### Phrases for the Middle School Stage (cont.)

- **"Have you ever seen pornography? How did it make you feel? Let's agree on something–If you see it, will you come tell me that same day? Let's keep these hurtful things out in the open!"**
- **"Did you know that everything we post, tweet, or comment is public in some way? There really is no such thing as privacy online. The Internet never forgets."**
- "We don't use technology after \_\_\_\_\_ at night. At that time, you will charge your device here \_\_\_\_\_ and you can pick it up at \_\_\_\_\_".
- "Have any of your friends ever done or said something online they regretted?"
- "Strangers are everywhere online - for your safety and for the safety of your family, please don't share anything person online."
- "As you parent, I have access to your device anytime. This is our house rule because with 1 billion website and 1.5 million apps, I want to help you make good decisions."
- [If you allow Instagram] "Let's chat about Instagram–having a private account, with just the people you trust, is a good idea. I'm going to follow you. Can you show me how to do that? Don't worry, I won't post any embarrassing comments on your pictures, but I am going to be looking at what your friends post."
- [If you allow Snapchat] "Let's talk about Snapchat. Honestly, you could hide some crazy stuff through the app, but certain types of pictures are actually illegal and could get you arrested. Please have fun, but be careful."





## High School Stage

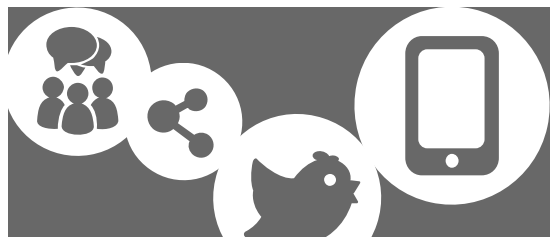
- ready for social media if trained properly
- by 16, might be ready for the app store
- good filtering with monitoring

Key Phrase: The Internet is a doorway to an amazing future.

Remember, no matter what we do, all kids will eventually see something on the internet that is inappropriate. Our primary role as parents and caring adults is to EQUIP kids to know what to do when this happens. This is why the conversations we have with our kids are so, so important, starting in elementary school. It is naïve to think kids won't see anything inappropriate under your watch. The kids who navigate our digital culture well are the ones who know what to do WHEN they see something inappropriate.

### Phrases for the High School Stage

- **"How we use technology says a lot about our true character. If we pulled together every text, tweet, post, and picture from the past year, what would a college think about who you are?"**
- "I want you to use technology to have an amazing life. Please know that just one inappropriate picture can change the entire direction of your future. Respect that."
- "Nothing we do online is private. What are some things you could post so that colleges see the real you?"

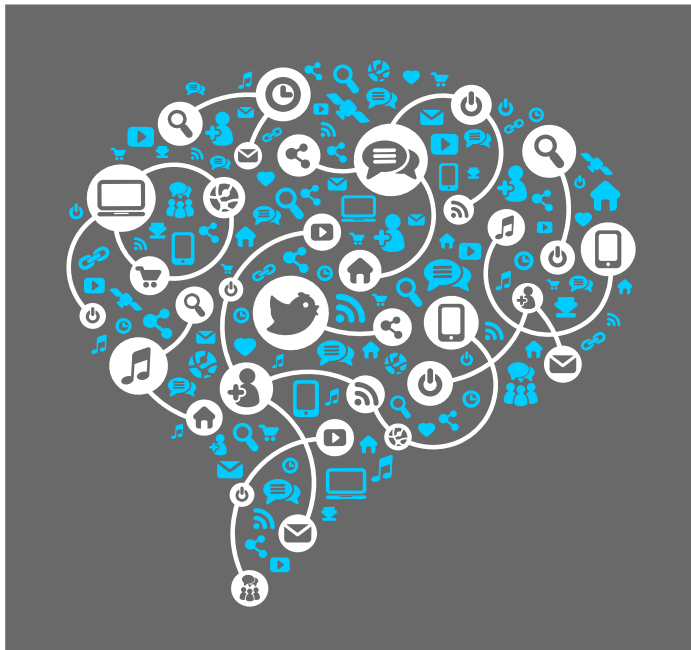
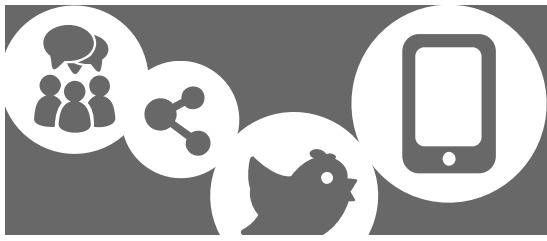


### Phrases for the High School Stage (cont.)

- “We don’t use technology while driving. I’ve started putting the phone in my glovebox just to avoid the temptation. Can you do the same?”
- “Your mom and I think that it’s a good idea to show each other the websites we visit, just to make sure we’re making good decisions. This is a great idea for all of us. Our entire family uses [whatever service you use] to help us avoid online issues.”
- [Dad to son] “It’s so easy to be tempted by what we see online. **Son, I want you to know that the door is wide open—we can talk about anything.** Let’s keep any shame or guilt out in the open. It’s so much better that way.”
- [Mom to daughter] “Have you ever been asked by a boy to send a picture that made you uncomfortable? **No matter what he might say, it’s not worth it. Every picture has the potential to be sent to thousands of people. You’re too special for that.**”
- “Did you know that in most states, sending or even having partially naked pictures of you or your friends is considered creation and distribution child pornography?”







For the latest apps, devices and parental control information, please visit:

[protectyouneyes.com](http://protectyouneyes.com)  
[chrism@protectyouneyes.com](mailto:chrism@protectyouneyes.com)

