

Managing Devices at Home:



Most students today use a **smartphone (iPhone or Android)** and a **laptop (Mac or Windows)** for learning, connecting, and entertainment. Each of these platforms provides **built-in tools** that help parents support responsible use, manage time and access, and stay involved.

With **Apple's Screen Time and Family Sharing**, **Google's Family Link**, and **Microsoft's Family Safety**, you can:

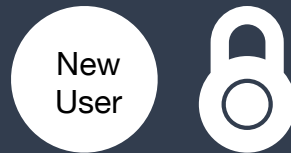
- Create child accounts with age-based settings
- Set screen time limits and schedule downtime
- Filter content and manage app access
- Approve app downloads and in-app purchases
- Review activity reports and — in some cases — location
- Manage devices across platforms and operating systems
- Monitor and adjust settings remotely from your own phone or computer

Communication Limits

Only **Apple's Screen Time** lets parents control **who** their child can call, message, or FaceTime — even during downtime. It helps prevent contact with strangers, limits communication to trusted contacts, and supports safer phone use for younger kids.

These tools don't replace active parenting — they support it.

Use them as a foundation for **conversations** about digital balance, safety, and independence.



1. Create Safe Accounts

Help your child build safe, age-appropriate online identities by setting up and managing their accounts with care.

- ➔ Use family-managed accounts for younger children through Apple Family Sharing or Google Family Link.
- ➔ For games, apps, or services that require their own accounts, consider using your email to register, or closely monitor new accounts they create.
- ➔ Always choose strong, unique passwords — a password manager can help keep things organized.
- ➔ Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) whenever possible to add an extra layer of security.
- ➔ Keep a secure, shared record of usernames and passwords so you're aware of which platforms your child uses.



2. Manage Devices Wisely

As children begin using laptops and smartphones more independently — often starting around Grade 6 — it's important to set clear expectations and use built-in tools to guide safe, balanced use.

Laptops (starting in Grade 6):

- ➔ Set up a child account on the device, but retain administrator control as a parent.
- ➔ On MacBooks, use Screen Time to manage app limits, website access, and downtime.
- ➔ Keep software up to date to ensure security and performance.
- ➔ Talk regularly about digital responsibility — including privacy, respectful behavior, and time management.

Phones (when the time is right):

- ➔ Use Screen Time (iOS) or Google Family Link (Android) to:
- ➔ Set daily screen time limits, downtime hours, and content restrictions.
- ➔ Review app usage reports and set limits accordingly.
- ➔ Approve or block app downloads and in-app purchases.

No tool replaces trust. Use these features as a way to stay connected and keep the conversation going as your child learns to navigate technology with more independence.



Family Link

Help keep your family safer online.



Screen Time & Family Sharing

You want to do what's best for your family. So do we.



Family Safety

Empower your family to create healthy habits and help protect the ones you love with digital family safety features.

3. Common Accounts and How Parental Tools Can Help

Kids don't just use devices — they use **accounts**, and each one opens a door to a different corner of their digital world. The built-in tools offered by Apple, Google, and Microsoft help parents stay involved across platforms, apps, and use cases.

The tools you set today aren't forever — they're there to match your child's current age and maturity. Adjust settings together as your child grows, and keep the door open for conversations about independence, safety, and trust.



Gaming Accounts

Examples: Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo, Minecraft, Roblox, Steam

- ✓ Set screen time limits for game apps or entire consoles
- ✓ Use content filters to restrict access by age or rating
- ✓ Disable or monitor online chat and friend requests
- ✓ Approve in-game purchases or block them entirely



Streaming & Entertainment

Examples: YouTube, Netflix, TikTok, Spotify, Disney+

- ✓ Enable restricted or kids' modes for age-appropriate content
- ✓ Set daily time limits for entertainment and social media apps
- ✓ Monitor viewing history and app usage
- ✓ Guide choices with regular check-ins and family viewing policies



School & Learning Tools

Examples: Google Workspace (Classroom, Docs), Microsoft Teams, Zoom

- ✓ Store and manage account credentials securely
- ✓ Review usage reports to see when and how school devices are used
- ✓ Ensure safe, focused use during school hours
- ✓ Talk about separating school and personal tech time



Messaging & Communication

Examples: iMessage, FaceTime, WhatsApp, Gmail, Discord

- ✓ On Apple devices, limit who your child can call, message, or FaceTime
- ✓ Monitor when and how often messaging apps are used
- ✓ Discuss what respectful, safe communication looks like
- ✓ Set rules for when and where messaging is allowed