



PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD: Keeping Kids Safe and Secure Online

It's time for a digital safety checkup!

A quick review of your children's online social media or gaming profiles might show:

- exactly what they look like
- where they go to school
- where they live
- the names of their parents, siblings, and friends
- where they have been and where they will be

Sometimes kids overshare information, which gives predators more opportunity to piece together information about a child they are targeting. How to avoid this? One way you can help your child be safer online is to sit down together on a regular basis and perform a digital safety checkup:

- Make all social media and gaming profiles private
- Have your child use a cartoon/avatar for their profile picture rather than a real image
- Have your child use a nickname as their username, rather than their real name
- Remove all identifying information from their online profile including age or birthday
- Do not use suggestive or identifying e-mail addresses
- Review app settings to keep information – like their location – private
- Don't forget that apps can be downloaded onto devices such as iPads and smartwatches so those devices will need a digital privacy checkup, too!

If you know of a child in immediate risk or danger, **notify law enforcement right away**. Online child exploitation can be reported to your **local police department** or to the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline: www.CyberTipline.com** or by calling 1-800-843-5678

Resources:

www.justice.gov/usao-ma/outreach/project-safe-childhood

www.staysafe.org/teens/

<https://www.missingkids.org/education/childsafetytoolkit>

