



COMMUNITY CYBER SAFE · TAKE-HOME GUIDE

Family Online Safety

Keeping kids safe online — and protecting their identities

Start here: Partnership beats surveillance. Kids who know they can come to you about something scary online are far safer than kids who fear getting in trouble. Set rules together and keep the door open.

Set the foundation

- Agree on age-appropriate rules together, and revisit them as kids grow.
- Use built-in parental controls on devices, consoles, and your home network — as a backstop, not a replacement for talking.
- Know which apps and games your kids use and who they talk to there.

Teach your kids the basics

- People online may not be who they say they are.
- Anyone pressuring you to keep a secret from your parents is a red flag — tell a trusted adult.
- Don't share personal details: full name, school, address, or daily routine.
- Nearly 30% of money lost to scams in 2025 started on social media — teens are targets too.

Protect your child's identity

- Kids are prime targets because the theft can go unnoticed for years.
- A child normally shouldn't have a credit report — ask the bureaus to check for one.
- Freeze your child's credit (under 16) with a birth certificate as proof.

Family checklist

- Write a simple family online agreement together
- Turn on parental controls on each device and the home network
- Talk about who to tell if something online feels wrong
- Freeze your child's credit
- Review privacy settings on the apps your kids use

More for families: consumer.ftc.gov · Child identity theft: IdentityTheft.gov

Community Cyber Safe — a complimentary program from Bullium Consulting · bullium.com/community-cyber-safe