

SANS

# Securing Your Kids

[securingthehuman.sans.org](http://securingthehuman.sans.org)  
[@securethehuman](https://twitter.com/securethehuman)



SANS | ACLP

## | Our Goal

- To enable kids to safely make the most of technology.
- Remember, we are not protecting data, we are protecting futures.

## Challenge for Us Parents

- Our kids are growing up in an environment we ourselves never experienced as kids.
- Our kids today are always connected.

# | Top Three Threats

- Strangers
- Friends
- Themselves

# | Strangers

- People your kids do not know.
  - Sexual predators
  - Sextortion
  - Fraud (hacked game accounts)
- Law enforcement actively targets this threat.

## | Friends

- People your kids do know (school, family, clubs)
  - Bullying
  - Sextortion
  - Ex boyfriend / girlfriend
  - Bad examples (swearing, excessive gaming, online late)
- Law enforcement often cannot help

# | Themselves

Often kids are their own worst enemy

- Bad public behavior (swearing / bullying)
- Accessing / sharing inappropriate content
- Too much time online (gaming)
- Downloading copyrighted material

| Common Theme?

# Communication



What Can You Do?

## | Education

- Talking to your children (and them talking to you) is your best defense. You cannot outsource parenting.
- The earlier you start the dialogue the better. Not sure where to start? Ask them to share what they do online and how.
- Golden rule

# | Dedicated Computer

Keep computer just for kids in visible area.

- Keep it updated / patched with AV and firewall.
- Make sure each child has their own, non-privileged account.
- Have your children be responsible for maintaining computer

Mine only use the computer for gaming / reports

## Mobile Devices

- Have a central, family charging station.
- All devices go there before bed.
- When kids leave house, smartphone has to be on, tracking enabled, and they have to respond to all messages from Mom or Dad (no phone dying due to too much gaming).

# Acceptable Use Policy – Family Contract

Agree upon rules before giving kids access to new technology. Update over time

- Times kids can or cannot be online and for how long
- Tie grades to use of devices
- What they can and cannot do
- Who / what to report with questions or concerns
- Partial payment of phone or services

[www.janellburleyhofmann.com/the-contract](http://www.janellburleyhofmann.com/the-contract)

## | Grandparents / Family

- Just like you train your kids, you may need to train other family members.
- When kids are at Grandma's, what rules apply, does Grandma know the rules?

*What happens at Grandma's stays at Grandma's*

## | Technology

- **Filtering** is active, you to control what activity your children can and cannot do online.
- **Monitoring** is passive, it only logs and reports what your children were doing.

# | Filtering

- Effective for younger children, prevents them from accidentally accessing harmful content
- As children get older, easier to bypass. In addition, as they get older they need more access
- Certain websites are their own 'ecosystem' and hard to filter (YouTube, Netflix, Steam, Instagram or Snapchat).



## | Opendns.org

- Free service, set-up as your DNS server.
- Will block attempts to connect to any server based on settings.
- Excellent for filtering website activity and protecting against malicious sites.
- Poor reporting.

# | Monitoring

- If you want to monitor, start early. Hard to start monitoring when they are 16.
- Overwhelmed by data / automated reporting.
- For mobile devices, if you want to monitor your kids Android has greatest capabilities.
  - Teen Safe
  - My Mobile Watchdog
  - Web Watcher

## | Setting the Example

- When talking to your kids, stop using technology and look them in the eye.
- Behave on the Internet as you would want your kids to.
- Don't use technology at the dinner table, late at night in bed or family events.
- No texting while driving.

## | Got a Geek?

- Cyber Aces [www.cyberaces.org](http://www.cyberaces.org)
- Cyber Patriot [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org)
- Cyber Challenge [www.uscyberchallenge.org](http://www.uscyberchallenge.org)
- Code Academy [www.codeacademy.com](http://www.codeacademy.com)
- Khan Academy [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
- Scholarships [www.sfs.opm.gov](http://www.sfs.opm.gov)

## When You Get Home

- Ask your kids what are their favorite apps and show you how they work.
- Create a dedicated charging station and keep computers in an open area.
- Create a contract for you and your kids.
- Stop using technology when kids want to talk to you.

## | Learning More

[securingthehuman.sans.org/resources](https://securingthehuman.sans.org/resources)