



Tips for Online Safety at Home

Additional resources, skills, and strategies for parents are available at no cost through the online Thrive Initiative programming. Visit the Thrive website <https://thrive.psu.edu>, and sign up today!

1) Protect all electronic devices.



Keep software updated with the latest security software.



Never turn off your firewall or antivirus software.



Keep the wireless router protected with a password.



2) Be smart online.



Do not click on links or attachments from addresses or people you do not know. Copy and paste links into your browser. Preview attachments before you download them.



Enable a secure VPN (virtual private network) for private searches and online browsing.

3) Think before handing out personal information.



Before you enter private information, check the web address. It should have a prefix of *https://* in the address and a locked lock should appear beside the address.

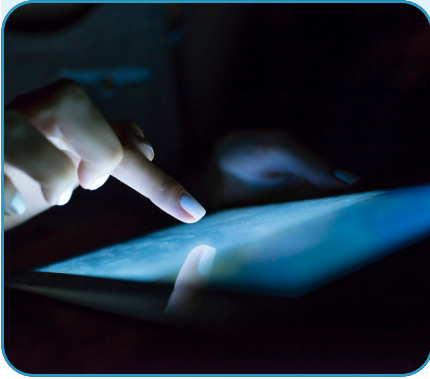


Never provide sensitive information in response to an email or instant message.



Give money to online charities with which you are familiar. Learn about who to contact and avoid giving to unknown senders; to protect from possible scams.





4) Create strong passwords and keep them secret.



Use a combination of capital and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols to make a phrase or sentence.



Use different passwords for different accounts for better security.



Write passwords in a notepad, and keep this in a safe place, or log passwords into a password manager online.

5) Take charge of your online reputation.



Google yourself once in a while to know what people see when they google you.



Generate an accurate positive online portrait of yourself.



6) Use social networks safely.



Check and change privacy settings on social media and web browsers to protect yourself from unwanted monitoring and manipulation of sensitive information.



Choose social friends wisely and keep tabs on posts that mention you.



Don't post anything that could harm your career or personal life.

7) Take extra steps to keep children safe online.



Monitor and provide guidance often.



Set guidelines for online access that fit your child's age and your values.



Know who your children interact with online.



References:

Kaspersky. (n.d.). Top 10 internet safety rules & what not to do online. <https://usa.kaspersky.com/resource-center/preemptive-safety/top-10-internet-safety-rules-and-what-not-to-do-online>

Microsoft. (n.d.). Top tips for online safety at home [Tip Sheet]. <https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/am/binary/RE1lmTu>