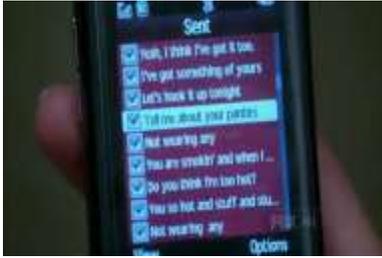


Cell Phone Safety Tips for Parents

-Your child does not have the right to privacy from parents. You as a parent have every right to look through your child's belongings, including their phone.



-Look through your child's phone. Conduct random and frequent searches of the phone for videos, pictures, and inappropriate conversations.

-Know their passcode. If they won't tell you what the code is, take away the phone. If they have a passcode and will not tell you what it is, there is something they are hiding.

-Be familiar with their phone and the apps (applications) they have. Vine, KIK, Instagram, Facebook, Oovoo, Snapchat, Tumblr, Flickr, and thousands of other programs allow anyone to send and receive pictures and videos. There is no verification process for registering with these apps. Anyone can sign up with an e-mail address.

-Search your child's internet history. Web browsers such as Google store recently visited websites. Unless you have set up parental controls on your child's phone, the phone has full unrestricted access to all contents on the internet.

-Apple iTunes ID and Google Play accounts should be a username and password that belong to the parent, not the child. This way, anytime your child wants to download an app, they need to ask your permission. This gives you a chance to ask what the app does and why they want it. This also prevents surprise phone bills from downloads you weren't expecting.

-Communication- talk to your child. Ask them what the apps are, what they like about it, and ask them to explain them to you.



There are many laws (Penal Codes) that apply specifically to juveniles, and many of them are not well known. For example, Child Pornography, 311 P.C.



*311.1. (a) **Every person** who knowingly **sends** or causes to be sent, or brings or causes to be brought, into this state for sale or distribution, or in this state possesses, prepares, publishes, produces, develops, duplicates, or prints any representation of information, data, or image, including, but not limited to, any film, filmstrip, photograph, negative, slide, photocopy, videotape, video laser disc, computer hardware, computer software, computer floppy disc, data storage media, CD-ROM, or computer-generated equipment or any other computer-generated image that contains or incorporates in any manner, any film or filmstrip, with intent to distribute or to exhibit to, or to exchange with, others, or who offers to distribute, distributes, or exhibits to, or exchanges with, others, any obscene matter, knowing that the matter **depicts a person under the age of 18 years personally engaging in or personally simulating sexual conduct***

This law does not provide an exemption for juveniles who take pictures of themselves and send them to their juvenile boyfriend or girlfriend.

Last school year alone, there were over a dozen investigations revolving around this behavior at both high schools, as well as all three middle schools.

For more information and tips, please visit

NetSmartz.org