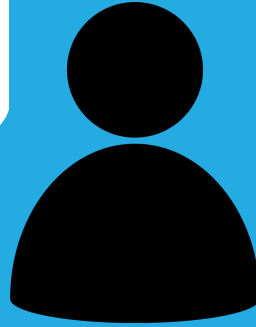


"So, I just got my kid a cell phone. Now what?"

The 'Online World' is intriguing and exciting. Children and youth use the Internet to communicate with friends and for entertainment. It becomes a legitimate part of their social structure. It provides them with a sense of connection and security.



What Should You Focus On?

What are they exposed to?
Who are they speaking to?
How are they being treated/treating others?
How is their character development being influenced?

SECRET

What's Personal?

Consider talking to them about **personal information and privacy and location settings**. Define what personal information is. Research and then show them how to switch to private accounts. Turn off the location settings. Increase their safety and give yourself a peace of mind.



Establish Guidelines With Mutual Understanding

Will you be doing spot checks?
Do you need a cell phone contract with outlined consequences?
Where can devices be used?
How long can they be used for?



Implement an Exit Strategy

Use the phones for help! If they are in troubling, uncomfortable situations with friends or are involved in peer pressure, have them use a code word to text to you. This code will allow them to use an excuse to leave the situation and their peers by simply stating, "family emergency."

DID YOU KNOW?

The minimum age to use most social media platforms is 13

BUT

According to a study, 48% of students have lied about their age to register for a site they are too young to join.

Via Young Canadians in a Wired World research by Media Smarts