

THE PLATFORMS CHEAT SHEET FOR PARENTS

THORN¹

4 Things You Can Do to Keep Your Kids Safe on Digital Platforms

What's the difference between a DM and an IM? Can strangers see what my kid is posting? Are gaming platforms the same as social media? When it comes to the places kids connect online, there's a lot to sort out. Understanding how the different spaces work will help you to keep your kids safe.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

1 Talk to your kid about their favorite platforms

It's impossible to know everything there is to know about social media or gaming, so tap into your greatest resource — your child. If they talk about something they saw while playing games, or an app one of their friends has, use that opportunity to ask them about how the app or game works. While your kids are a great jumping-off point, there are plenty of resources for adults to give you even more insight.

BROWSE RELEVANT RESOURCES AND LINKS:

- [App Review from Parents & Kids - Common Sense Media](#)
- [Social Media Guide - Family Online Safety Institute](#)
- [The App Danger Project](#) - App reviews that raise concern of child exploitation

2 Familiarize yourself with platform-specific resources

Most apps and platforms popular with kids (even if those kids don't meet age requirements) have safety resources available for parents. These guides can include everything from platform overviews to expert advice to important resources around reporting issues. Even if your child isn't yet using the app, take a look and be sure to bookmark these for future reference.

BROWSE RELEVANT RESOURCES AND LINKS:

- [Facebook Parents Portal](#)
- [TikTok Guardian's Guide](#)

- [Snapchat Safety - Parents & Educators](#)
- [Discord's Family Center & How to Use It](#)
- [Roblox - Account Restrictions & Parent Guide](#)
- [Minecraft - How to Manage Parental Consent, Family Settings And Realms/Multiplayer Access for a Child Account](#)

3 Discuss what happens on platforms — good and bad

A dialogue about platforms is a good opportunity to keep the conversation fun. Talk to your kids about some of your favorite apps and what you like to do online, and encourage them to do the same. This is also a great opportunity to touch on things that they might find less fun and open the door for future discussions about uncomfortable situations that could happen.

BROWSE RELEVANT RESOURCES AND LINKS:

- [Discussion Guide - Social Media & Platforms](#)
- [Discussion Guide - Screen Time & Monitoring](#)

4 Check in & keep talking

Apps and games are constantly evolving. If you happen to use some of the same apps, talk about a new feature that you're excited about, or something that is driving you nuts. Keep discussions about platforms as a normalized part of the conversation, so if something comes up they know you already share a baseline.