

Common Sense Privacy Program

As parents, we are facing a very different world than when we were growing up. Social media has changed our lives and, school now looks very different with technology resources and remote learning as integral parts. Here are a few things to think about as we navigate these times with our children.

1

Remember that it is still your family

As your district embraces more online and digital learning tools that you may not be accustomed to, remember that your role as a parent remains unchanged. You are still in charge, and you should be making decisions about technology use in your household. Your expectations of your child's behavior and activities at school don't change when your child attends school from home online. As children get older, it is important to have conversations about tech, but remember that it is still your house.

3

Learn about your school's technology platforms

Your home is now an extension of your child's classroom, and you are a classroom aide. Take some time to figure out how the technology works. This will help you and your kids feel comfortable in this different mode. Look for support resources on your school's website to help you navigate your school's learning platforms and apps. Set aside a specific place to do "school" at home for your kids. Ask questions of your child and your child's teacher about what works and what doesn't, and how you can best help your child.

2

Learn about parental controls

Become familiar with the technology that your kids are using for school. Some applications and most device operating systems include [parental controls](#). Make sure that you are talking to your children about why you are putting controls in place, and that you are doing it for their safety. When kids are aware that you are monitoring, they are more mindful of their behavior. You don't need to be an expert at managing technology to help your child. If you need assistance, check with your school's technology department.

4

Remember you can be seen in the background on camera

If your kids are using a video platform for class, be careful of what's in the background. Be mindful that everyone in the class can see what's on camera. You and other family members should avoid walking in camera view as that can be a distraction to other students. Additionally, sound carries very well through the microphones, so other members of the household may be heard by the entire class discussing topics intended to be private.

5

Be careful what you share on social media

It can be exciting, or at the very least eventful as your children attend class virtually via video. Don't post photographs of your child attending class to your social media if classmates can be seen on the computer screen. Also, ask your child if you may share their image on social media. You have a great influence on your children. Talk to them about social media and the fact that they are portraying themselves to the world. Monitor small children and reinforce the knowledge that the internet lives forever. Something shared cannot be taken back.

7

Final words

Don't panic! While you may be feeling challenged by new digital learning tools and platforms from your school, teaching and learning haven't changed. Use your kid's teacher as a resource, and ask how you can best support your child.

6

Learn more about your schools' educational apps

Schools continually review and curate which apps and websites they use to ensure both academic effectiveness and student data privacy and safety. Check your school's website for more information about what apps and websites your school have approved for use with your child.

As you look to augment and support your child's learning, check out these resources from Common Sense:

- [Resources for Families During Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- [Online Learning Resources for Families](#)

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