

Children's Online Safety Guide





In a hyperconnected digital landscape, the internet offers incredible opportunities for learning, communication, and entertainment. However, it also brings challenges that require a collaborative effort between digital service providers, parents, and the community to ensure a safe and positive online experience.

At Zain KSA, we are dedicated to supporting parents with ongoing education and advanced solutions, empowering them to foster a secure digital environment where children can safely explore the internet's educational and entertainment benefits through awareness, open dialogue, and preventive tools.



Diverse Online Threats

Children face a variety of online threats, ranging from the obvious to the more subtle. These risks can generally be categorized as follows:



Inappropriate Content:

Materials unsuitable for children, such as adult content, violent imagery, offensive or racist language, hate speech, and other age-inappropriate topics.



Cyberbullying and Blackmail:

Instances where children are subjected to bullying or threats from peers or strangers online.



Phishing and Fraud:

Scams designed to steal personal or financial information through deceptive links or emails.



Internet Addiction:

Excessive internet use leading to long-term adverse effects on a child's mental and physical health



Terms and Conditions:

Digital agreements that users often accept without reading, potentially leading to data theft or misuse for marketing purposes.

Parental Control Tools for Secure Online Use

Parental control tools offer various features to help parents:



Content Filtering:

Block and filter inappropriate content for children.



Access Restrictions:

Control and limit access to specific types of information.



Screen Time Management:

Set limits on the duration and timing of children's internet use.

Advanced parental control tools empower parents to set usage parameters and implement safeguards to protect children from inappropriate content. To make the most of these tools, parents should



Enable Parental Controls:

Activate these features on all devices the child uses, such as tablets, smartphones, and computers.



Review and Update Settings:

Regularly assess and adjust control settings to align with the child's evolving interests, age, and digital maturity.

As a Parent, My Priorities Are:

Parents play a crucial role in ensuring their children's online safety by educating them about digital risks, setting device usage guidelines, and providing continuous supervision.

These actions help protect children's privacy and shield them from cyber threats such as cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

Creating a Safe Digital Environment

Implement clear and effective measures to enable children to enjoy their online experiences, whether for educational purposes or leisure, while avoiding potential risks. Key steps include



Setting Up Individual Accounts:

Create separate user profiles for each child, providing access to age-appropriate content only.



Using Child-Friendly Web Browsers:

Opt for web browsers designed specifically for children, which filter out inappropriate material.



Activating Safety Features on Standard Browsers:

Enable the safety settings available in common web browsers to block access to inappropriate websites and harmful content.



Tracking Visited Sites:

Monitor your child's online activities by tracking the websites they have visited through their browsing history.



Configuring Built-In Parental Controls:

Leverage the parental control features available in modern operating systems to oversee internet usage, manage applications, and set screen time limits.

For more details, please refer to the parental control guidelines for various platforms listed below:

Apple iOS



[Click Here](#)

Android



[Click Here](#)

PlayStation



[Click Here](#)

XBOX



[Click Here](#)

Managing Internet Access via Home Wi-Fi:

Configure your home Wi-Fi router settings to control internet access. You can block specific websites and set scheduled times for network connectivity, enabling or disabling access as needed.

Setting Internet Usage Limits:

Establish clear rules and time restrictions for internet and device use to balance your child's study time, physical activity, and digital engagement.

Using Educational Online Resources:

Utilize child-friendly search engines that filter out inappropriate or harmful content to create a safe online learning environment.

Education and Awareness Beyond Parental Controls:

Open communication and education are essential for empowering children to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. By establishing clear guidelines and maintaining an open dialogue, parents can build trust and encourage self-regulation in their children's online activities.

Key practices include:



Educating Children:

Teach children the fundamentals of safe browsing, including recognizing harmful or inappropriate content, safeguarding personal information, and understanding how to handle potential risks.



Encouraging Open Communication:

Promote a safe environment where children feel comfortable discussing online challenges and interactions with strangers. Make sure children know they can openly discuss these things with you without fear or hesitation.



Promoting Safe Internet Use:

Guide children on how to seek reliable information and leverage the internet for educational purposes, reinforcing the value of using digital tools responsibly.



Monitoring Online Activity:

Be transparent with your child about regularly reviewing their browsing history to ensure safety, while stressing the importance of maintaining a balanced approach to online and offline activities.

Guiding Your Child in Selecting Age-Appropriate Games and Apps:

Engage actively with your child in selecting appropriate games and apps to foster a positive digital experience and enjoy quality time together.



Assessing Game and App Content:

Verify that games and apps are suitable for your child's age and align with their interests. Check ratings and reviews for additional insights.



Overseeing Downloads:

Supervise the downloading process to ensure that apps and games are safe and free from malicious content. Discuss the importance of downloading only from trusted sources.



Managing In-App Purchases:

Educate your child about in-app purchases and set clear guidelines for spending. Regularly review and manage your credit card information to prevent unauthorized transactions.

Reporting Inappropriate Content:

Make sure your child knows that they can report any unsettling or inappropriate online experiences, and reinforce that asking for help is both encouraged and completely normal.

Reporting Mechanisms:

Guide your child on how to use the reporting tools available on different platforms to flag inappropriate content or harassment.

Essential Guidelines for Parents

While it is essential for parents to stay vigilant and engaged with their children's online activities, it is equally important to steer clear of common pitfalls to prevent serious consequences. Here are some key practices to consider:



Avoid leaving children unsupervised:

Always supervise children's internet use, especially younger ones, to ensure they stay safe online.



Balance control and trust:

Set clear expectations and boundaries while allowing children some autonomy. This helps build trust and avoids feelings of restriction.



Explain consequences:

When rules are broken, discuss the reasons behind any consequences with your child and offer guidance on how to avoid similar issues in the future.



Encourage balanced use:

Instead of using the internet as a pacifier, promote physical and social activities to ensure a well-rounded lifestyle.



Monitor online activities:

Regularly discuss with your child their online activities, including the apps and websites they use, to stay informed and involved.



Protect personal information:

Educate your child about the importance of keeping personal data, such as photos, passwords, and contact details, private.



Exercise caution with online friendships:

Advise your child to be cautious when forming online friendships and remind them that not everyone they meet online has good intentions.



You can report harmful websites and online content through the following channels:

Cybercrime Reporting

<https://my.gov.sa/en/services/398352>

[Click Here](https://my.gov.sa/en/services/398352)

Saudi Filtering Service

<https://filter.cst.gov.sa/en/>

[Click Here](https://filter.cst.gov.sa/en/)

Media Content Violations

<https://gmedia.gov.sa/en/services/press-release>

[Click Here](https://gmedia.gov.sa/en/services/press-release)

