



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

28 February 2019 ·

#LASD Offers Online Safety Tips for Parents and their Children on Recent Social Media Trends

Recently, various social media and web based challenges have emerged that promote self-harm, and other dangerous activities to our young and impressionable county residents.

We all know, the development of the internet has brought forth both positive and negative effects on our society. There are many positive things the internet can do for us; connect us with family and friends, help us manage our lives, and help us learn about the world we live in. However, some of the negative effects can become a great concern to parents, educators, and more importantly, our children. This includes people that use the connectivity of the internet to promote harm to others.

For parents today, it seems the internet has endless ways of trying to persuade our children to harm themselves. Many Parents believe that spreading awareness about the latest dangerous craze will help kids stay safe, but in reality a sound approach including education, safety talks, and open lines of communication with our children is the best route. The best way to protect our children is by being involved and teaching our children about online safety on a daily basis.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is dedicated to working with the residents of Los Angeles County to help promote the message about cyber-crimes and educate about internet and social media safety.

Below are some internet and social networking tips for parents to use:

- Be Involved! Talk to your kids and monitor what they are watching on the internet or social media.
- Develop a strong relationship with your children and communicate with them.
- Talk to your children about online predators and what to do if they are contacted by one.
- Talk to your children about morals and ethics. In today's age, one's online reputation can follow them for the rest of their lives.
- Have access to, and inspect your child's phone, tablets or computers on a regular basis.
- Have access to your children's social media passwords.
- Ensure your child's social media privacy settings are set to the appropriate levels.
- If your child's has a certain social media account, you should also have an account.
- Limit the information your children post online, birth dates, home addresses, and phone numbers. These can lure predators and identity thieves.
- Make sure your children know it is not safe to share passwords and accounts with others outside of the family with others outside of the family.

For more information about what you can do to help protect your children online, please visit:

Safe Online Surfing - Federal Bureau of Investigation

The goal of FBI-SOS is to promote cyber citizenship and help students learn about online safety while engaging in fun, interactive games. The program was designed to address current Internet safety threats while keeping each grade level's online usage and knowledge in mind. We hope that you find the program beneficial and that your students use the information to make themselves safer digital citizens.

<https://sos.fbi.gov/>

National Cyber Security Alliance

The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) builds strong public/private partnerships to create and implement broad-reaching education and awareness efforts to empower users at home, work and school with the information they need to keep themselves, their organizations, their systems and their sensitive information safe and secure online and encourage a culture of cybersecurity.

<https://staysafeonline.org/>

Stop Cyberbullying

Teach kids how to identify bullying and how to stand up to it safely. Be aware of what your kids are doing online

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team

<https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips>

D.A.R.E

Teaching Students Decision Making for a Safe and Healthy Living

<https://www.dare.org>

Kid Power

Kid power prepares people of all ages, abilities, and walks of life with training, resources, and skills to prevent and stop bullying, abuse, kidnapping, prejudice, and sexual assault.

<http://www.kidpower.org>

You can always call 911 in the event of an emergency. If you wish to report a non-emergent crime involving the internet please call your local station or law enforcement agency.