

# Parenting in the Digital Age



**Today's students are living out loud in a culture of personal sharing** that has changed the concept of privacy. This shift profoundly impacts students in their social, emotional, and academic lives. Most are using social media in a positive way, yet they live in a world where there are few rules about how to behave in cyberspace. In this new frontier, there is potential for posting too much information and making online “mistakes” that can damage reputation and have long lasting effects. We call these long-term effects a "digital tattoo" - they can be created in an instant, but stay with their owner forever.

**Your role as a parent is to help your child develop the critical thinking skills** they need to manage their own privacy, respect the privacy of others, and use cyber-sense and ethical decision making in their digital lives.

**Like us on Facebook** to hear about the latest trends, new websites, and legislative updates that impact us as we parent and educate children and youth in a 24/7 digital world: [www.facebook.com/MyDigitalTAT2](http://www.facebook.com/MyDigitalTAT2)  
Check out our website at: [www.mydigitaltat2.com](http://www.mydigitaltat2.com)

## Recommended Resources

### Parents Guide to Facebook

<http://www.ikeepsafe.org/parents/parents-guide-to-facebook/>

### Websites:

- [mydigitaltat2.com](http://mydigitaltat2.com)
- [athinline.org](http://athinline.org)
- [facinghistory.org](http://facinghistory.org)
- [netfamilynews.org](http://netfamilynews.org)
- [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org)
- [cyberbullying.us](http://cyberbullying.us)
- [netsmartzkids.org](http://netsmartzkids.org)
- [thatsnotcool.org](http://thatsnotcool.org)
- [facebook.com/safety/](http://facebook.com/safety/)
- [isafe.org](http://isafe.org)
- [nios.org](http://nios.org)
- [connectsafely.org](http://connectsafely.org)

# Tips for Parenting Your Child in a 24/7 Digital World



## Your role is to...

- Watch, play, and listen with your kids and talk about the content together
- Create a media agreement that fits the needs of your family
- Give them support, tools, and practice
- Stay informed and current about their digital life
- Let your child teach you about technology
- Listen first: Be curious, not furious
- Model balanced media use
- Recognize that values are caught not taught
- Know what sites they are visiting and understand how they are using them
- Help them create a positive digital reputation by lending them your frontal lobe
- Help them develop strategies to deal with conflict
- Be sure they have a trusted adult in their life with whom they can bounce off ideas
- Discuss accountability and consequences
- Model that nothing replaces face-to-face communication
- Assess risk and if concerned, seek help
- Empower them to stand up to social cruelty online and offline
- Practice kindness
- Keep the doors of communication open
- Harness what they love: watch, play and listen with your kids
- Provide supervision not snoopervision

Never lose  
sight of how  
important you  
are to your  
child, even if  
they cannot  
acknowledge it.