



# 10

## Conversation Starters About Cyber Safety For Families



## How To Use

These cards are designed to spark conversations about online safety with your kid or teen. Each question has multiple choice answers to **get your kid talking** - there may or may not be an option that fits their exact answer, and that's ok. We want to simply provide the **opportunity for you to listen and share insights** provided on the back of the card to promote greater understanding around safe online habits.



## How Strong is Your Password?

- a)** It has an exclamation mark in it!
- b)** I wanted to make it tricky, but I'm afraid I'll forget it!
- c)** I use the password my device suggests.



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## Talking Points

Reusing passwords means that if one app gets hacked, then all the apps with that password can easily get hacked. Strong passwords are **12+ characters** long - try using **3-4 random words** with a mix of numbers and **special symbols** (just no personal info like birthdates!). And turn on **2-step authentication** whenever available.



## **Are strangers online dangerous if you never meet IRL?**

- a)** Only if they get your address.
- b)** It's ok as long as they are the same age.
- c)** Yes, but I'm not sure how.

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## Talking Points

When meeting strangers online we **don't really know who the other person is** - it's easy to hide identities. Even if you never meet in-person the sad reality is some people will try to make you feel bad, show you things you shouldn't see, or try to get you to share personal stuff. It's important to **speak with a trusted adult** if any of these things happen.



**Are you comfortable telling us if you've been involved in any negative online interactions?**

- a)** I'm ok, I just block people I don't like.
- b)** I talk to my friends about it.
- c)** It's too embarrassing - the internet has weird stuff!

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## Talking Points

Online can be confusing and scary. **It's crucial your child feels safe coming to you** no matter what they've encountered. They should not fear punishment or losing their phone. Emphasize to your kid that you're a team no matter the 'oops!' and **you'll work together** to keep online a fun and safe space.





## Can someone find your address if you never share it?

- a) No, because I don't type it anywhere.
- b) Some apps ask for location, so maybe?
- c) Yes, but I'm not sure how.

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## Talking Points

Even without directly sharing your address there are ways **your location can be discovered** through videos and images you shared that have landmarks and road signs. **Location information may also be included in the image or video details.** Clicking on links in a chat message could reveal your IP address with your geolocation. **Be careful what you share and where.**



## Have you ever used Random Video Chats Apps?

- a) I do, but only with friends.
- b) Yeah, it's funny!
- c) No, I don't like those apps.

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## Talking Points

Random webcam chats are very popular - a kid is randomly paired with another person. If they're not interested in that person, they swipe to meet someone new. Risks include **kids encountering inappropriate material** and/or online predators, **unknowingly being recorded**, or simply sharing personal details that should be private.



## **Are SnapChat memories private?**

- a)** Yes, if you use “My Eyes Only” feature.
- b)** Pretty sure it is.
- c)** Maybe not totally private, but I’m not sure.



## Talking Points

Social media apps come packed with snazzy filters kids love but here's the twist: saving pics and vids as drafts or as 'private' **inside these apps can be risky.** If the account gets hacked, bam! All those cherished snaps could be in the wild. Avoid using any social app **as a photo vault!**



## **Has anyone ever shown you an inappropriate pic of a minor?**

- a)** No way! But friends have told me it's happened.
- b)** Yes but I blocked them.
- c)** I stay off some apps because I've heard some bad things.



## Talking Points

Here's a startling fact: **1 in 4 kids** have either sent or received unsuitable photos involving minors. And guess what? Many still don't grasp the gravity of it. These **images can spread like a viral dance challenge** but leave lasting scars. So, before handing over that first smartphone, have a heart-to-heart about the do's and don'ts.





## **What do you check before you download an app?**

- a)** I only download apps that are popular/well known.
- b)** Check what?
- c)** I check the reviews first to make sure it's good.



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## Talking Points

**Be on the lookout for 'lookalike' apps** that impersonate brands but are not legitimate. And while it's good to skim through user reviews, keep an eye out for fishy, generic praises that could signal **fake reviews**. Also, **peek at the permissions**—does a wallpaper app really need access to your location, contacts, and photos? A quick online search can also spill any **recent app drama or mishaps**.



## Is a game cheat safe if everyone is using it?

- a) I'm not sure. Everything has always seemed ok.
- b) Yes, the makers want the game to be secure.
- c) No. I've heard of gamers getting scammed.



## Talking Points

While game cheats can jazz up game play or give an edge, they may pack some **unwelcome surprises** like malicious software; could lead to **account suspensions**, or even trick you out of money! AND if a kid's computer gets hacked, it could put other **family devices at risk**, especially if you all share the same WiFi.



## How do you know if something is a deep fake or real?

- a) I feel like I could tell if it's not real.
- b) The sound is different and sounds off.
- c) Some things can't be faked, so I trust those.

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## Talking Points

Deepfakes are getting crazy good - sometimes **only a computer can tell** real from fake! If a favorite YouTuber, TikToker, or even friend shows something outlandish, **pause before believing it**, especially if they're pushing YOU to do something. And **consider context**: Is your best bud suddenly chillin' in Antarctica? Yeah, that's a red flag!



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Conversation  
Going And**

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