

Tech and Communications for Parents and Teens

Westminster Institute, 2016

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Secret to Successful Technology Communications

If it's in BLUE, it's for the kids ☺ ...



... If it's in RED, it's for the Parents !!!

Secret to Successful Technology Communications



Understand

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There's a lot of "free" apps on the internet for phones, tablets and even computers that promise (and deliver!) very cool stuff for free ... but, it's not free !!!!! MP3 players that also have access to your camera, games that record your face while you're playing games, chat software that, legally, keeps every bit of data that passes through it's servers, video chat programs that enable the company to keep all videos that pass through their servers, VPN software that reads every bit of data that passes through We're not trying to scare you, but, it's important that you, and your folks, REVIEW any software or app that you're wanting to put on your device BEFORE you install it.

This is an entirely new world that kids are growing up in that is nothing like the world that someone in their 30's could even imagine. Entertainment for the kids today is not delivered by mass media and movies as much as it is by internet streaming services and sites. Communication is no longer phone calls but a world where ANY connected device can be used for real time two way communication. It's imperative that each and every device you bring into the house you understand ... you know what it can do and how it can do it

Secret to Successful Technology Communications



Understand

Communicate

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Kids need to understand that even if they don't agree or can fathom WHY their parents set boundaries, that the parents DO have their best interest at heart. When boundaries are set that do cause confusion, instead of trying to a "work around" the situation to get what you want, talk with your folks and find out WHY these boundaries exist, if necessary, bring up your reasons for wanting some of these boundaries changed or removed ... your folks may not agree with you, but, this is DEFINITELY preferred to sneaking around or installing software such as VPN to avoid the boundaries!

Parents need to communicate with their children open and honestly, listening to what their kids are wishing to do (or view) and why ... Knowing that the kids are exposed to a much wider view of the world than existed even 10 years ago, it's important to keep a line of communication open and honest instead of creating draconian rules and boundaries that encourage teenagers to get creative and sneak to do and see things their friends are doing and seeing.

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Monitor

Your folks have your best interest at heart !!! As you're growing up, you're learning and becoming your own person, but, growing up is about making mistakes too ... Your folks looking into your phone or computer, insisting on being a "friend" on social media platforms, or insisting that the internet connected devices stay in public areas of the house aren't because they don't trust you, but, because they love you and want to help you grow up without making any mistakes that could be with you for a lifetime!

Parents, I can't stress enough how Monitoring really needs to be a two way street ... Each child is different and has different boundaries, but, if it becomes too much of a 1984 situation, you're going to force your kids away. A couple of tips, if I may ...

- Make sure to friend your kids on their Social Media Platforms, but, DO NOT embarrass them on these sites !!! (No baby pics tagged to their account!)*
- When reviewing the phone, don't dwell on or comment on what you find if it's not dangerous. (No reviewing texts just to see what their friends are up to!)*
- Make boundaries organic ... As your kids grow, give them more freedom and expect more out of them. (Maybe allow phones in the room but set a time they should be turned off, something easily checked)*

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Discuss

Man, we already had communicate, now discuss ??? Is Mr. Cecil getting too old to remember what he typed ??? No, it's on here twice because you're growing up in a world that your parents couldn't have even imagined ... A world where things that exist today that were only in Sci-Fi when your folks were your age. It's important that you TALK to your parents a lot about tech ... Even though they may not know all of the in's and out's of the latest tablet, they DO know the in's and out's of their kids and want you to grow into the best parts of themselves!

Keeping open lines of communication with your kids is more important today than it's ever been in the past Make sure that you do just that, and, not only on your terms, use their terms as well ... I was guilty of this with Dylan when I was e-mailing him things and then got on to him because he didn't do what I'd asked After talking with D, I found out that he looks at e-mail once a week but reads his texts and Facebook messages immediately ... We now communicate electronically via text and messaging. Your kids are being exposed to a lot of things at school and away from home that you don't have control over, so, instead, it's important that you keep 2 way communication open ... trust is a 2 way street!

THANK YOU 😊 Some Helpful Links

- IMDB (<http://www.imdb.com>) – Internet Movie Database Look at the “Parents Guide” to see what kind of content is in a movie.
- Common Sense Media (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>) – read reviews and information about apps, TV shows, movies, and much more
- GOOGLE (<http://www.google.com>) – Great search engine to have real questions answered! ... You can also type in the name of an app, program, or device to see the good, bad, and ugly about it !!!!
- SNOPEs (<http://www.snopes.com>) – Debunk a lot of the myths out there
- Google Play and Apple APP Stores – where the apps are located to download to phones and tablets ... look at the reviews BEFORE allowing the downloads.
- Snap Chat, VINE, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr, Pinterest, Flickr, Reddit ... These are many of the Social Media sites that are being used TODAY Key word here is TODAY New ones are coming up all of the time, which is why communication is so important!
- [Parenting.Com](#) ... The main site is for babies, but, the link I’ve listed has tips for monitoring your kid’s social media ...
- And last, but not least, CecilRice@cecilandtoni.com If you have any questions, always feel free to e-mail me and I’ll help you research whatever it is 😊 ...