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 Parents Should Monitor Children’s Tech Devices

 Why? But it’s mines! Your child or teenager may say when you ask for their passwords to their tech devices. As confusing or dumbfounded they may look, it is best for parents to monitor their children tech devices. Any type of device such as computers, cell phones, tablets, and ipads needs to be monitored for the safety and wellbeing of the child or children. There are many reasons why parents should check their child’s devices. When parents monitor their child’s tech devices, they will be in the Know! They will know if there is any cyberbullying going on, they will know if sexting is involved, they will know if pedophiles are trying to reach them and they will find out if they are watching inappropriate sites.

 For one, cyberbullying has become a big problem amongst children, not only locally, but around the world. According Tim Woda, An Internet Safety Expert, “most kids are harassed by online cyberbullies suffer emotional distress and never tell their parents” (Woda, “10 Reasons to Monitor Your Child’s Internet Activity”). Inappropriate and defying messages are sent through the internet or phone that can lower a child’s or teen’s self-esteem. Some teens do not know how to respond to a threat and may even be scared to face the bully at school. Some teens pretend to be someone else behind the screen to bully another child. It is very important that parents check their child’s or teen’s social media to make sure that their child are not bullying or being bullying. Researchers has also included that cyber bullying can lead to anxiety, depression and suicide (2009 “Bullying Statistics-Cyber Bullying Statistics). From the article, Bullying Linked to Suicidal Behavior, 5 and 8 percent of U.S. teens attempt suicide yearly (2014 Agata Blaszczak-Boxer). Parents can encourage children to be mindful of what they put on social media and to never terrorize another adolescent or teen. If this type of behavior is going on, parents should do something about immediately.

 Secondly, parents should monitor adolescents and teens devices due to the possible of sexting. Sexting is considered as a sexual text message. This involves nude pictures or conversation involving sexual content on the phone or through social media messages. Teens may think that there is no harm in sending sex messages or receiving it. However, it can lead to something serious. I’m pretty sure that we’ve all seen movies with teens thinking it’s cool to send a picture of their body part and somehow it goes viral—demolishing their character and reputation. Reality is, things like this happen for real. Here is a solution, parents should monitor occasionally to stop things like this from happening. Teens should know their worth and know that sexting is not appropriate.

 Another reason is to keep watch from pedophiles. Pedophiles are surfing the web and they do not care about getting to know your child. They will try to form relationships and will even try to meet them. Pedophiles will try to manipulate a child or teen through social media and chat sites. They prey on the weak minded. If parents are not tune into what their child is doing on their devices, they can easily link up with a pedophile and think that he or she is just a friend. Parents must take this into consideration when refusing to invade their child’s privacy.

 Pop-ups of inappropriate sites is another reason. These sites can be pornography or anything degrading peoples character. Smaller children love their super hero cartoons and movies. Sometimes, when they type in a kids show or toys, other people has formed a little show which use the characters but are doing inappropriate things. Therefore, we have to be careful and make sure that children are downloading proper apps and games. What children are looking at can affect them in a way that will change their character and have their mind constantly wondering about things their young mind can’t handle. Sometimes children are exposed to pornography from another peer and they will think it’s alright to download sites or look up sites that involves pornography. To keep adolescents and teens from pornography addiction, parents should have parental controls set up to block such sites on their devices.

Children may become angry with parents because of invading their privacy, especially teens. Teens are at the age where they think they are mature enough to be responsible for using their tech devices appropriately and we should trust them. However, when it comes to children, it’s our duty to keep them safe. As much as we would want our kids to understand the fact that it’s not that we don’t trust them, but there are cruel people in this world, that tries degrading characters and manipulate the mind through their devices. Parents should consider parental controls while on the computer. Cell phones and tablets should be limited and not used much of the child’s day. It is important and vital that parents form a close relationship with their child and teen and to make sure they understand that it’s all about safety. When giving new devices, parents should set rules and encourage their children not to cyberbully or get involved with unusual and inappropriate activities. So many cases of disturbing incidents would have been prevented only if parents or guardians would have known what was in their children phones. It’s very sad to hear that a parent didn’t know because they trusted their child and they gave them complete privacy. Parents, lets stand up and block the reoccurring of disappointing incidents by monitoring and being aware of what’s on children tech devices.

<http://resources.uknowkids.com/blog/bid/159115/10-reasons-to-monitor-your-child-s-internet-activity>

<http://www.bullyingstatistics.org/content/cyber-bullying-statistics.html>