

# SOCIAL NETWORKING SAFETY

## Quick Fact:

73% of teens are on a social network  
The average teen has 201 Facebook friends  
37% send messages to friends every day  
8% of American teens use Twitter

<http://facebook-parental-controls-review.toptenreviews.com/30-statistics-about-teens-and-social-networking.html>



Social networking sites, chat rooms, virtual worlds, and blogs are how teens and tweens socialize online; it's important to help your child learn how to navigate these spaces safely. Among the pitfalls that come with online socializing are sharing too much information or posting comments, photos, or videos that can damage a reputation or hurt someone's feelings. Applying real-world judgment can help minimize those risks. A good place to start is understanding the various ways content can be shared through social networking sites

(SNS).

**SNS Basics** - Although not every social networking site has all of these components, many of them add more and more features in an effort to keep users on their sites for longer periods of time. Instead of opening multiple applications, users can rely on one SNS to serve all their communications needs.

**Blogs** – These online journals or diaries are becoming a common part of many SNS.

**Comment Walls** – A popular feature of most SNS that allows users to communicate through comments left on each others' pages.

**E-mail** – Most SNS have an e-mail feature through which users can communicate privately or with select groups.

**Friends Lists** – These contact lists are usually comprised of people a child knows offline, but also include friends of friends and others they have only met online.

**Instant Messaging** - Some SNS, such as Facebook, have made chat features available to users.

**Pictures and Videos** – Most SNS allow users to post a profile picture. Many also allow users to post photos and videos to an online “album.”

**Status Updates** - Users post these short sentences to let the people on their friends list know their actions, feelings, and thoughts.

# SNS SAFETY TIPS

- ☑ Remind Kids That Online Actions Have Consequences
- ☑ Tell Kids to Limit What They Share
- ☑ Encourage Online Manners, Politeness counts !
- ☑ Limit Access to Your Kids' Profiles
- ☑ Talk to Kids About What They're Doing Online
- ☑ Kids should post only what they're comfortable with others seeing
- ☑ Remind kids that once they post it, they can't take it back
- ☑ Tell your kids not to impersonate someone else
- ☑ Ask your kids who they're in touch with online
- ☑ set profiles to private

