



FSA - Keeping You Safe

Internet Safety Tips for Your Children

With so many kids online these days, the risks are new and different, and often ever-changing and evolving. While some parents may feel limited in ways they can protect their child from using the internet, there are steps you can take to protect them.

When your child asks to use your computer, phone, or tablet, ask them what they are doing and what they intend to do on these devices. Follow up with your child during their time spent on the devices. Limit the amount of time spent and how late they may use them.

We also encourage you to follow these tips from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. Some other tips are:

- **Be Involved** - Know who they hang out with and how they spend their time.
- **Talk** - One of the most important things you can do is to sit down and talk with your kids. Help them understand why you care so much and are concerned.
- **Stay Informed** - Social media is ever-changing. Be aware of new apps and which ones are particularly dangerous. Talk about what type of information is not okay for sharing.
- **Know Acronyms** - Know what your child and their friends are saying in text and chat rooms.
- **Limit Screen Time** - Keep devices in common areas and don't allow them to be taken to bed at night.
- **Monitor Privacy Settings** - Use parental controls and check with your internet and phone provider for tools.
- **Pay Attention** - Notice signs or changes in your child's behavior.

Cyber Tipline

If the public wants to report Internet online crimes, they can contact the [St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office](#) directly or [Cyber Tipline](#). The tipline is run by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and all local leads are sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency, depending on your location.

[Read more tips on Child Internet Safety visit the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.](#)

For more tips please visit the Florida Sheriffs Association's Crime Prevention Tips: flsheriffs.org/crime-prevention.