

Safe Clicks for Children

Protecting Kids from Social Media Algorithm Risks



Why This Matters

Many parents are unaware that social media platforms often suggest their children's accounts to adults in their networks. While most adults may pose no concern, it only takes one or two problematic individuals for harm to occur. What may begin as online harassment can, in some cases, escalate to more serious forms of harassment or even exploitation.

What Parents and Schools Need to Know

- Social media algorithms, not parents or children, often determine who is suggested as a connection.
- Parents and children should have the ability to control who connects with them online.
- Proactive conversations about online safety can help children recognize and avoid unhealthy or risky interactions.

Online Safety Resources

Resource	What It Offers
NetSmartz	Videos and interactive activities teaching children safe online practices.
Be Internet Awesome (Google)	Tools and games to help children explore the internet responsibly and securely.
FBI Safe Online Surfing (SOS)	A free cyber safety education program for schools and children.

Tips for Parents and Guardians

- ✓ Do not assume all online connections are safe, even if the adult is someone you know offline.
- ✓ If a platform suggests your child's account to an adult, avoid connecting directly.
- ✓ If a connection is appropriate, discuss it with the child's parents or guardians first, and let the child initiate the connection when safe.
- ✓ Maintain ongoing, age-appropriate conversations about digital safety, boundaries, and respectful online behavior.

Know Your Rights: COPPA

The **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)** gives parents control over the personal information collected from children under 13. Websites and apps must obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting or using a child's personal data. Learn more: <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/privacy-security/childrens-privacy>

Contact Us

Safe Clicks for Children
www.safeclicks4children.com

For additional resources, trainings, or support, please visit our website.