

S-A-F-E-T-Y TIPS

For “Growing Wireless” Kids

Smart—Wireless services and devices offer kids amazing opportunities to learn, play and engage, but there are also opportunities for inappropriate use. With such a wide variety of wireless services and devices, the wireless industry has taken steps to inform parents about the many tools and resources it offers to help and educate parents and kids to stay safe in the mobile environment.

Aware—Wireless opens the door to a new world of possibilities in education, work and social interaction. Parents should be aware of the wireless services and devices that kids are using so they know the new offerings.

Familiar—The wireless industry offers a variety of tools, services and applications for parents to manage their kids’ wireless usage. To more effectively use these tools, parents should look for:

- A wireless provider’s plans, policies and service offerings for voice, data and texts. 611 can be dialed from any wireless device to reach customer service.
- A wireless device’s built-in features and tools available so parents may manage their kids’ access to the Internet, camera, music, videos, games and applications.
- A wireless provider’s parental control tools that allow parents to choose the contacts, downloads, applications, phone functions and service capabilities that are available on their kids’ wireless devices.
- The privacy settings in social networks, location based services and other emerging wireless applications.

Experience— For kids, wireless devices and services are the coolest because they can text with their friends, play games and use social networks. Before setting rules and guidelines for kids, parents should experience wireless devices in the same manner as their children.

Talk— Keeping an open dialogue is important since it encourages kids to talk to parents about how they are using wireless services and devices. Appropriate wireless use should be defined by parents and kids - together. To start the conversation, parents should start with the five W’s of wireless— who, what, when, where and why:

- Who may your kids contact?
- What will you allow them to do with their wireless devices?
- When is it appropriate for them to use their wireless devices?
- Where is it appropriate for them to use their wireless devices?
- Why is all of this important?

Yearly Review—As technologies evolve and children grow, it is important to keep family guidelines and rules updated annually. To help parents set parameters, here’s a family rules template: <http://ctia.it/MPY1q8>

CTIA
The Wireless Association®

CTIA—The Wireless Association and the wireless industry are committed to keeping kids safe in a mobile environment by providing parents with the tools and resources they need to help promote responsible wireless use. In August 2012, CTIA and The Wireless Foundation launched “Growing Wireless” (growingwireless.com) to help parents educate themselves and their kids to use wireless technology responsibly

The Wireless Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) formed by the member companies of CTIA, also provides families and educators with information on responsible wireless use. For more information: www.wirelessfoundation.org

GLOSSARY & TIPS

3G & 4G: A general term that refers to new wireless technologies that offer increased data speeds and capabilities using digital wireless networks. Talk with your wireless provider about the service plan that is right for your family.

App (Application): Downloadable tools, resources, games, social networks or almost anything that adds a function or feature to a wireless device that are available for free or a fee. Some applications may also offer users the ability to purchase content or enhanced features within the application. Parents may limit their child's ability to download or make these in-app purchases by password protecting those features on a wireless device. CTIA created an application rating system to help inform parents about an application so they can determine if it's appropriate for their kids: <http://ctia.it/NolU7A>

Common Short Codes (CSC): Five- or six-digit numbers which allow wireless devices to send text messages for value-added services such as tele-voting campaigns, mobile coupons, charitable donations and other programs. Remember to check your wireless statements to confirm your CSC purchases or donations.

Contract Plan (Post-Paid): A wireless service plan that bills for services preselected and used by the subscriber on a monthly basis, such as voice, text or data. Consumers subscribe to the plan for a specific term, such as two-years, and a fee may be charged for terminating before the end of the contract. Most family plans are offered as post-paid plans. CTIA developed a voluntary Consumer Code for Wireless Service to help consumers make informed choices when selecting wireless products and services: <http://ctia.it/Q87RrM>

Cyberbullying: Spreading hurtful rumors, harassing or directing harmful words or images toward another person through the Internet. On a mobile device, cyberbullying may occur in a number of ways, including phone calls, text messages, videos and photos. For more information: <http://ctia.it/P695DS>

Location Based Services (LBS): Any wireless service or application that uses the geographical position of a wireless device. CTIA developed voluntary LBS Best Practices and Guidelines to promote and protect user privacy: <http://ctia.it/QfTRav>

Parental Control Features and Tools: Apps, features or tools that allow parents to manage or monitor how their kids use wireless products and services. Offered by wireless providers and third parties, these tools include content filters and password protections that may be built-in or downloaded as an application to a wireless device. Many of the parental control features and tools that the wireless industry offers are here <http://ctia.it/OZYpVH>

Prepaid Plan: A wireless service plan that allows subscribers to purchase for a set price, a predetermined amount of services, such as voice, text and data. CTIA developed a voluntary Consumer Code for Wireless Service to help consumers make informed choices when selecting wireless products and services: <http://ctia.it/Q87RrM>

Privacy Settings: Ability to determine how personally identifiable information (PII) is used by wireless applications, devices and services. Consumers should always review the privacy policy of a wireless application, device and service so they know when and how their PII will be made available to third parties such as their friends, commercial partners or the general public. For more information: <http://ctia.it/OMzVwV>

Sexting: The sending or receiving of inappropriate explicit or implicit sexual messages or images electronically, but primarily using wireless devices. To help prevent sexting, parents may use the parental control feature and tools, such as limiting texting, camera and video capabilities. For more information: <http://ctia.it/QfY3qO>

Text Message (Short Message Service(SMS); Texting): Subscribers may send and receive a text, usually 160 characters or less, on their wireless devices. Providers and third party app developers offer shortcuts and apps so you can manage your family's text message usage. In addition, there are also parental control tools to manage how (e.g. time of day) your child may send and receive text messages.

Wi-Fi®: Wi-Fi provides Wi-Fi-enabled devices (e.g. laptops, tablets, smart-phones) with wireless Internet access to the immediate local area and is used in homes, businesses and other similar settings. Wi-Fi does not use 3G/4G wireless networks.