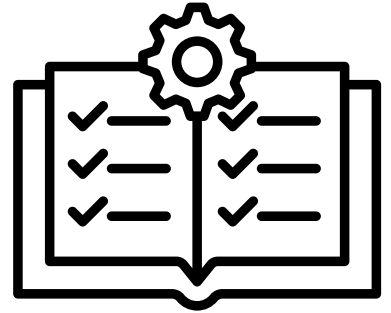


Welcome to our Web Rangers Digital Literacy Training Guide For Parents!



Web Rangers empowers children with skills and knowledge, so they use the internet and social media safely and responsibly, so they are able to champion their rights in the digital world.

Web Rangers is here to help you navigate the challenges and opportunities of raising children in a digital world.



Today's topic is Online Safety & Privacy:

Today's children have grown up with digital technology from birth. Even in a country like South Africa, that has a wide gap of digital divide, children still find creative ways to be online – time they use to access unlimited opportunities. Nevertheless, the need to be vigilant about our children's online privacy is greater than ever.

What is privacy?

Privacy refers to the level of access people, companies, and other groups have to your information. It is the ability to protect oneself from being tracked or monitored by others.

i.e. A child that reviews their social media account settings and adjusts them to private is actively practicing online safety by securing his/her privacy



Essential Insights for Parents

Your child's privacy online is important because:

- If your child's privacy settings are public instead of private, anyone, whether known or unknown, can see their location, images, and other personal information online.
- If your child doesn't understand the importance of keeping certain information private, they might share too much, which can be collected and processed by people we know and those we don't.
- Children cannot know or trust everyone they interact with online. While the web is excellent for learning, connecting with others, and showcasing skills, it can also pose threats from predators, scammers, and other digital bad actors. Teaching them to secure their privacy protects them from potential harm.
- Also, understanding online reputation management is vital because once something is posted online, it can't be entirely removed, even if deleted. Once they click the post button it's there virtually forever! i.e. ([Renaldo Gouws](#); [Miss South Africa 2020 hopeful Bianca Schoombe](#))



Helping my child secure their personal information- What can I do?

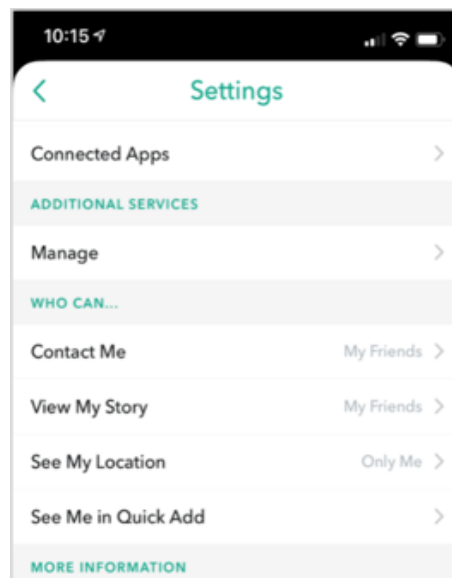
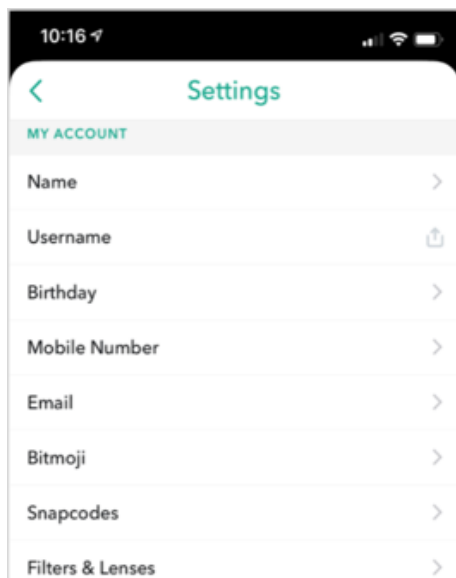
Control Sharing:

- Avoid sharing personally identifying information (e.g., gender, birthdays, full names, home address, school name, phone numbers) unless with trusted organizations or authorized persons.
- Encourage your child to seek your help when filling out online forms.
- Read terms of service for social media networks, focusing on child protection policies.



Review Privacy Settings:

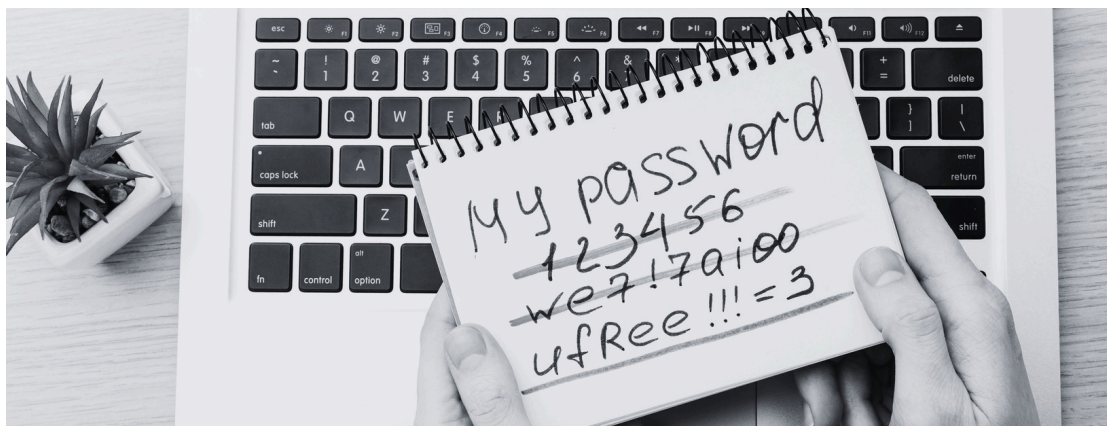
- Regularly check and update privacy settings on your child's devices.



- Make reviewing privacy settings and app permissions a habit (every 3 – 6 months).
- Teach your child about the permanence of online posts and messages (digital footprint).



- Keep all social media accounts private and encourage a "pause and think" approach before posting.
- Create strong, unique passwords (at least 8 characters long, combining upper- & lower-case letters, numbers, and symbols).



- Regularly check and update privacy settings on your child's devices.

Stay Alert:

Familiarise yourself with the sections of the POPI Act (1) (Protection of Personal Information Act) that speak to children's privacy (section 34 & 35).

- Never click on unknown links or QR codes, especially those promising urgent or free giveaways.
- Ensure website addresses begin with "https" for secure browsing versus "http".

Stay in Touch



Subscribe to our newsletter for the latest in digital literacy and safety.
Learn more at [Web Rangers](#).

Digital Dilemmas? Get expert advice from Agony Aunt to navigate your child's online challenges.
Visit [Hash Play](#) for support.



Report Misinformation: Encounter harmful content online?
Report it to [Real 411](#) for expert review and action against digital threats to democracy.

