

6. Install Antivirus Protection



Once a link is followed from Twitter, all it takes is a few ill-advised clicks to put the entire network at risk. Download free or purchased antivirus software. A good program will ensure that all connected devices are protected against threats that originate from Twitter or other sources.

7. Approach Links with Caution



Twitter members often use link-shortening tools to maximize character usage, the source of these links can be difficult to identify.

Bottom line — links could lead users to rogue sites harboring malware, phishing scams and other security threats, so they should be approached with extreme caution.

8. "Follow" Your Kids



Following your child on Twitter gives you an opportunity to listen in on these public conversations, and see what they're sharing in terms of photos and videos. More importantly, it positions you to be the first party alerted of instances that involve drug use, stalking or bullying.

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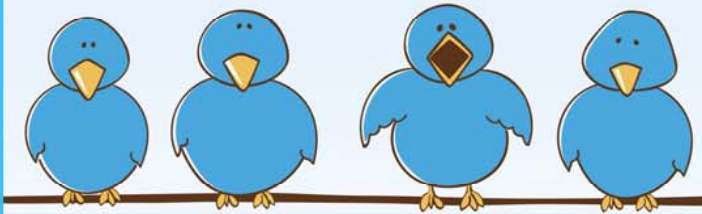
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Keeping safe on



twitter

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Keeping safe on twitter



Twitter is giant among social networks. The ease of use and rapid-fire element makes it a handy communication

tool for anyone who wants to keep in touch with friends or associates. But while Twitter can be a great place to hang out online, the site has an anything-goes nature that makes it a potential threat to teens and younger children. When it comes to Internet safety for kids, popular social media channels like this need to be part of the conversation. **The following tips should be enforced by parents, who want to make sure their children are as safe as possible when socializing on Twitter.**

1. Be Smart with Your Password

Twitter accounts are hacked all the time. Once hackers are inside, they can gain easy access to personal information and the ability to post messages on behalf of the victimized user. To prevent an intrusion, passwords should be a mix of letters and numbers, at least six characters in length, and they should be never shared with others. Consider getting a password manager to not only store passwords and personal data in a secure, encrypted database but to also help generate random, strong passwords.



The Do's and Don'ts of Choosing a Password



- Do try to choose a password that has at least 10 characters (letters, numbers, and spaces). This can help to keep your account secure.
- Do use all of the following: capital and lowercase letters, symbols, and numbers.
- Do store your password somewhere where you can remember it. Maybe write it down on paper or in a Word document. You don't want a forgotten password, do you?



- Don't include personal information in your password, such as your home address, place you live, phone number, etc.
- Don't use words and letter/number/symbol combinations that people use a lot, such as "password," "your" and "abc."
- Don't use the same password on other websites.

2. Configure Privacy Settings



Twitter has a built-in search engine that allows user to comb the network for tweets. That means anything you post can pop up in one of these searches. By enabling the "Protect My Tweets" option, users can make sure these posts stay off-limits to search queries and are only seen by approved users.

3. Don't Share Personal Information



There could be anyone lurking behind any given social media profile. A hacker. An identity thief. A predator. For this reason, kids should be instructed to never share any personal information that could potentially reveal their identity or location when interacting on Twitter. This goes for profile information as well as private photos and videos.

4. Tweet Wisely

A seemingly harmless tweet can inflict a lot of damage when it insults someone or puts



someone in danger. This is often the case even when the message is later deleted. Parents need to help their children understand the power of these messages and the importance of thinking before tapping that "Tweet" button.

5. Don't Befriend with Strangers



Social media offers an exciting way to connect with new people, but it is also a haven for creeps looking to manipulate the unknowing behind the mask of anonymity. Parents would be wise to enforce a policy that restricts their children to only following and communicating with people they know. This tip not only ensures Internet safety for kids, but protection offline as well.