



Helping Kids Stay Safe Online & With AI



A quick guide for parents and educators

1 Teach these habits

- ✓ Pause before clicking, replying, or paying.
- ✓ Keep personal information and private photos private.
- ✓ Use strong passwords and MFA.
- ✓ Check AI answers and online claims with trusted sources.
- ✓ Tell a trusted adult early when something feels wrong.



2 Watch for these red flags

- ▶ Sudden secrecy, panic, or fear after being online.
- ▶ Requests for money, gift cards, codes, or private images.
- ▶ Pressure to move chats off-platform or keep secrets.
- ▶ New online "friend" who becomes intense, romantic, or threatening.
- ▶ Heavy reliance on AI chatbots for emotional support or advice.



3 What to say and do

- ♥ "You will not be in trouble for telling me."
- ♥ Save screenshots, block/report, and document what happened.
- ♥ Contact the platform, school, or law enforcement when needed.
- ♥ Keep regular check-ins; aim for calm, curiosity, and support.



Expert Insight

Social engineering targets emotions: urgency, fear, flattery, reward, and isolation.



AI Insight

AI can sound confident, friendly, and human — even when it is wrong.



The goal is not fear — it is habits of pause, verification, and asking for help.



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Developed by the Donate Foundation team based on our research on cybersecurity and AI use, and informed by public guidance from CDE, CISA, FBI, NCMEC, UNICEF, and UNESCO.