

SOCIAL NETWORKING & FACEBOOK

30 Statistics about Teens and Social Networking

Teen Internet Use

- 93% of teens ages 12-17 go online
- 69% of teens have their own computer
- 63% of teen internet users go online every day
- 27% of teens use their phone to get online
- 24% of teens with a game console use it to go online

Teen Social Networking Use

- 73% of teens are on a social network
- The average teen has 201 Facebook friends
- 37% send messages to friends every day
- 8% of American teens use Twitter

What Teens do on Facebook

- 86% of social network-using teens comment on a friend's wall
- 83% comment on friends' pictures
- 66% send private messages to friends
- 58% send IM or text messages using the site
- 52% send group messages

What Else Happens on Facebook

- 55% of teens have given out personal info to someone they don't know, including photos and physical descriptions
- 29% of teens have posted mean info, embarrassing photos or spread rumors about someone
- 29% have been stalked or contacted by a stranger or someone they don't know
- 24% have had private or embarrassing info made public without their permission
- 22% have been cyberpranked

Parental Concerns and Controls

- 88% of parents know that their teens typically use the internet to communicate with people they don't know in the offline world
- 61% of parents' #1 concern with teen social networking is sharing personal information online
- 60% of adults think parents should have full control over everything a child does online
- 47% of parents admit that ensuring their teens are safe online can be overwhelming
- 40% of parents worry about their teen's social network safety when online, even at home
- 34% of parents check their child's social network sites

What Kids Think About Facebook Parental Controls

- 67% of teenagers say they know how to hide what they do online from parents
- 43% of teens say they would change their online behavior if they knew that their parents were watching them

- 39% think their online activity is private from everyone, including parents
- 38% would feel offended if they found out their parents were spying on them with Facebook parental controls
- 25% would be shocked and hurt if they found out about spying
- 20% of kids think their parents have no idea what they're doing online
- 18% have created a private email address or separate social networking profile
- 10% have unlocked parental controls to disable filtering

The results are clear: teens use Facebook. It isn't necessarily the safest place to play (but then again, that's part of the appeal) and parents are reasonably concerned. But even with dominant trends and statistics showing what the average family thinks, your family is unique. Kids are unique, parenting styles are dynamically different, and how your family addresses social networking should be too. The best Facebook parental controls can help you protect your children in a way that fits your family best, whether it's for strict oversight, minimal monitoring, or somewhere in between.

Facebook Parental Controls: What to Look For

It can be tough to figure out which Facebook parental controls are the best or which social network monitoring tool is right for your family. Use the following criteria to evaluate the best Facebook parental controls software and discover which ones are the most effective, easiest to use, and flexible enough to meet the needs of your individual family.

Features

The best Facebook parental controls have a robust feature set with tools to help parents keep their kids protected on social networks. Parental controls for Facebook can help identify dangers (some you probably didn't even know were possible), monitor risky behavior, stay alerted on activity, moderate friends and even review posted pictures. Your family is unique, and the best Facebook monitoring tools can adapt to your parenting style. With age-appropriate settings and custom controls, you should be able to gently monitor one child and keep a heavy eye on another, all from the same Facebook parental control application.

Protection

The ultimate goal of Facebook parental controls is to protect your child. How well a social network monitoring application works depends on how aggressive the filtering is, what monitoring technologies are used and how they are actually implemented. The most effective parental controls for Facebook have a dynamic approach to accommodate the unpredictable nature of social networking (not to mention teenagers).

Alerts & Reporting

Sifting through everything that one of your kids says on Facebook walls could be a full-time job, and it could quickly turn into nightmare if you have two or three children with multiple social networking accounts apiece. Timely alerts and summary reports help busy parents manage their kids' online behavior without getting lost in it. The best Facebook parental control applications make it easy to know what's going on while still maintaining your distance.

Facebook doesn't have to be a dangerous place for your kids to play. With powerful Facebook parental controls, you can keep tabs on your kids without interfering. Whether you're trying to protect their reputation and privacy, keep an eye out for cyberbullying and strangers or just learn more about what your kids are doing online, you can be an involved online parent with the best Facebook parental control software.