

IMPORTANT WEB SITES

WWW.NCPC.ORG

National Crime Prevention Council, a privately-supported nonprofit, whose website is a comprehensive online resource for helping people keep their families and their communities safe from crime

WWW.MCGRUFF.ORG

McGruff the Crime Dog® site for children ages 5–10 has information, games, videos, comic books, and more about safety, including online safety and cyberbullying

WWW.CONNECTSAFELY.ORG

A nonprofit interactive forum and resource center providing tips and videos, plus a place to ask questions, comment on issues, and discuss youth online safety with parents, experts, and teens

WWW.SAFEKIDS.COM

One of the oldest and most comprehensive Internet safety sites

WWW.NETFAMILYNEWS.ORG

Kid-tech news for parents—the nonprofit “community newspaper” of tech parenting and children’s online safety

WWW.CYBERTIPLINE.COM

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s hotline for reporting online child sexual exploitation; available 24/7 at 1-800-843-5678

WWW.CYBERBULLYING.US

An information clearinghouse on cyberbullying, including information on identifying the causes and consequences of online harassment

WWW.CSRILL.ORG

Cyberbullying information from the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use

WWW.NETSMARTZ.ORG

Safety education for kids, parents, educators, and law enforcement from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

WWW.WIRELESSAMBERALERTS.ORG

Sign up to receive AMBER Alerts as free text messages on your cell phone if a child is abducted in your area

Wireless
AMBER
Alerts

A FEW THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CYBERBULLYING...

The instant access that cell phones and the Internet provide means that children need to use common sense when it comes to cyber communication. This includes knowing how to handle cyberbullies who use text, email, voice, and instant messages, as well as photos to embarrass, insult, and unnerve kids.

A 2007 study of approximately 2,000 middle school students in grades 6 through 8 found that 42.9% of them had at least one of the following experiences in the last 30 days:

- ▶ received an email or an instant message that made them upset
- ▶ had something posted on a social networking site that made them upset
- ▶ had been made fun of in a chat room
- ▶ had something posted on a Web site that made them upset
- ▶ had something posted online that they did not want others to see
- ▶ were afraid to go on the computer

About the same number of students reported being victims of cyberbullying as being bullies—17%

Source: WWW.CYBERBULLYING.US

REVIEW THESE ADDITIONAL TIPS WITH YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ Program family phone numbers into your phone for easy access.
- ▶ If there is an emergency, don’t wait, call 9-1-1 (or your local emergency number).
- ▶ Remember that photos you send stay online forever and can be sent to anyone.
- ▶ Follow the rules about cell phone use. Cell phones shouldn’t be used in some places.



Family Guide

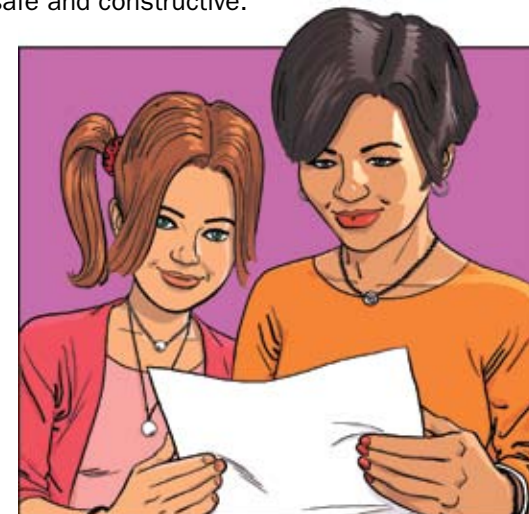
CELL PHONE SAVVY

**WHO IS YOUR CHILD TEXTING?
WHAT MESSAGES ARE BEING RECEIVED?
DO YOU KNOW?**

The Wireless Foundation and the National Crime Prevention Council have teamed up with Weekly Reader to bring you important information about cell phone safety and cyberbullying. Your child is participating in a program on this topic at school. We hope you will reinforce what your son or daughter has learned with conversations at home about safety and courtesy on cellular devices.

Inside this pamphlet is a contract for you and your child.

It will help keep your child’s cell phone use safe and constructive.



CTIA The Wireless Foundation
www.wirelessfoundation.org

WR WEEKLY READER
CUSTOM PUBLISHING

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL
www.ncpc.org

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TIPS FOR TALKING, TEXTING, AND SENDING MESSAGES

McGruff®

- ▶ **Send** appropriate text, email, or picture messages only.
- ▶ **Do not give out** your address or other personal information on a phone call, text, or email to people you don't know, or if others can hear you.
- ▶ **Do not respond** to an email, text, picture, or voice message from someone you don't know.
- ▶ **Tell an adult** you trust if you receive anything on your phone—a call, a text message, an email, a picture, or voicemail message—that makes you uncomfortable.
- ▶ **Be aware** of your surroundings and understand when talking or texting is appropriate and when it is not.

The more advanced cellular devices become, the more functions they have available. Sending pictures over the Internet is something that children do all the time. Photo-messaging on cell phones is no different. Children need to be aware why all pictures are not appropriate to send. They also need to know that if they receive a message or image that makes them uncomfortable, they should immediately tell you or another trusted adult.

FAMILY CONTRACT FOR RESPONSIBLE CELL PHONE USE

CHILD:

I will follow all school rules about cell phones.

I will answer my phone if my parent calls, or return the call immediately if I'm in a restricted use area.

I will not use my phone to share photos that could embarrass me or others.

I will not share photos of other people without their permission.

I will not talk or send text messages about people in a way that hurts them or their reputation.

I will not pass along or give any other support to a hurtful message sent to me about someone else.

I will not download, add, or subscribe to anything on my phone without my parents'/guardians' permission.

I will not disable any parental controls on my phone.

If I'm uncomfortable with messages on my phone, I'll talk to my parents/guardians about it.

I will not talk or text with anyone I don't know; I will tell my parents if a stranger keeps trying to contact me.

I will not use my phone to arrange meetings with anybody I don't know.

I will stay within my plan's usage limits and review my usage with a parent/guardian if I go over those limits.

PARENT/ GUARDIAN:

I will periodically talk with my child about using a cell phone.

I will not take away my child's cell phone if my child comes to me about a problem concerning content or contact on a phone unless my child is in danger or has disregarded family rules. Instead, we will work together to try to solve the problem and to make sure my child makes good choices.

I will set reasonable consequences if any of the above rules are broken.

I will periodically revisit these rules as my child matures and cell phone technology evolves.

Other terms your family wants to add:

We have talked about and understand the terms and consequences of this contract and promise to honor them.

Signed: _____
(Date)

(Child)

(Parent/Guardian)

