Websites

www.commonsensemedia.org
A free, comprehensive website providing ratings and reviews (by age) of apps, movies, websites, games, TV programs, music, and books. Also includes free educator resources, tips on parenting in a digital age, relevant articles, blogs, and current research. Each review has four sections - What parents Need to Know, Learning Potential, User Reviews, and Website/App Details. Find everything you need to know about these very popular apps: Twitter, Ask.Fm, Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, Vine, Snapchat, Tumblr, Kik, WhatsApp, Wanelo, pheed, Google+, Facetime, Skype, and ooVoo.

www.yoursphere.com
Website founder Mary Kay Hoal is a nationally recognized authority on Internet safety. The site provides comprehensive information for families with children of all ages on digital citizenship. Topics include cyber bullying, parent navigation through popular social media sites, saying "yes" to technology, Kindle Fire setup for kids, technology "how to," reviews of apps, software, and hardware. This site includes an excellent section on apps that disable the texting feature while driving, including reviews of the following apps: Textecution, OneProtect, AT&T DriveMode, DriveSafe.ly, SafeCell, and MobiLocPlus.

www.internetsafety101.org
This website provides basic guidelines for Internet safety including specific suggestions broken down by age group. Other useful information includes glossary of terms, lists of acronyms parents need to know, Internet filtering options, parental control suggestions, and printable Internet safety pledge forms for home use.

www.uknow.com
Website dedicated to resources that can help families manage, monitor, and track online activities. You must create an account to access the limited free material. Many of the products require a purchase or membership fee.

Online Articles/Blogs

Parenting in a Digital Age… this blog by Lynn Schofield Clark, Ph.D includes articles/posts on a wide range of topics from planning a "tech free" vacation, to how kids really feel about their parents' technology use. Available at www.psychologytoday.com.

"When it Comes to Technology, Parents Need to Step Up Their Game" www.takepart.com March 11, 2013. This is an excellent article by Sarah Brown Wessling. She provides a teacher's perspective on technology in the classroom and outlines her rationale for challenging students to be more than passive consumers of information. Wessling provides useful suggestions and excellent conversation starters/questions for engaging your kids in meaningful dialogue about technology use.

"The Selfie Syndrome: Why teens use social media for validation and how parents can counteract it" www.today.com October 18, 2013. This article by Carolyn Savage provides some good guidelines for posting on social media.

"Moms, You Ought to Know: 11 social media apps teens are using now" www.today.com August 12, 2013. Author Lela Davidson gives a brief description of some of the most popular apps and what they do.

"Cyberparenting and the Risk of T.M.I"   www.nytimes.com May, 5, 2013. Author Pamela Paul discusses the realities of having too much information about your kids' online personalities.

"You Can Track Your Kids. But Should You?" www.nytimes.com June 27, 2012. Five experts in various fields give their opinion on both sides of the issue regarding kids' privacy *vs.* parents' safety concerns.

" 'Big Brother'? No It's Parents." www.nytimes.com June 25, 2012. Commentary on tracking your kids' online activities by Somni Sengupta.

Books
Talking Back to Facebook: The Common Sense Guide to Raising Kids in the Digital Age by James P. Steyer

The App Generation: How Today's Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy and Imagination in a Digital World by Howard Gardner and Katie Davis

Smarter Than You Think: How Technology is Changing Our Minds for the Better by Clive Thompson

lol…OMG! : What Every Student Needs to Know About Online Reputation Management, Digital Citizenship and Cyberbullying by Matt Ivester

The Parent's Guide to Texting, Facebook, and Social Media: Understanding the Benefits and Dangers of Parenting in a Digital World by Shawn Marie Edgington

The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age by Catherine Steiner-Adair EdD. and Teresa H. Barker

Alone Together: Why we expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other by Sherry Turkle

Other
From One Second to the Next a documentary film by producer Werner Herzog in conjunction with AT&T as part of the "It can Wait" campaign. The film highlights the dangers of texting and driving with true accounts of accidents as told by those directly involved as victims, drivers, and family members. Available at youtube.com (approx. 35 minutes in length).