Safety Tips for Technology

Smart phones, tablets, computers. Technology can be great if you know how to use it safely. Is your child ready to use it safely? Are *you* prepared to help guide them and teach them how to use a device safely?

Here are some helpful tips for you to discuss and think about:

1. Never share passwords.
2. Set a "no delete" policy.
3. Set restrictions on iPad, phones, computers.
4. Daily monitoring.
5. Limit to only social media you can monitor.
6. Limit contacts in phone to only people you know and trust.
7. Explain to your children that predators are not always adults, can be "friends."
8. Always keep phones up by mid-evening and charging in parents' room.
9. You **own** your child's form of technology (even if they used their own money to purchase it).
10. Keep dialogue open. Communication is key!
11. If someone asks you to send inappropriate or naked pictures, tell your parents!
12. Put camera and FaceTime on at the appropriate age.
13. Establish a strict policy about devices never in any bathroom or rooms with doors closed.

For more tips about how to protect your children from online dangers, go to:

protectyoungeyes.com

If you have concerns about your child's safety online or suspect your child has been victimized, please reach out to Ada's school counselor, Jennifer Fisher, or principal, Jo Anderson at 616-493-8940. Or contact the Children's Assessment Center at 616-336-5160.