Securing Devices

From very young toddlers up through high schoolers, our children are more likely than ever to be attached to one or more digital devices. All of this device and app usage comes with considerable risk. How can we as parents protect our children by securing their devices?

- Lock phones, tablets, and laptops with a passcode
- Turn on 'Find my' to locate iOS devices and 'Find my Device' to locate Android devices if they are lost or stolen

Set up recovery account information with a backup phone number listed

Secure school-issued Chromebooks by making sure passcodes are set, knowing what location artifacts are being tracked, and ensuring children fully understand Internet safety

- Establish trust around device and app usage with tweens and teens and maintain open communication
- If a child is going through a rough period or has broken trust, consider allowing them to access their devices only in an open area with a parent or trusted adult present

- Know that children and teens will try to bypass security measures on their devices
- Be vigilant against the use of developer mode, 'jailbreaks,' hacking, and other advanced techniques kids can use on their phones that create additional security risks

As parents in the digital age, we need to be prepared for anything and everything. Sometimes our kids may have more current, complex devices than we do! If you don't understand the technology your child or teen is using, ask them to show you. Put them in the place of the teacher and continue that communication on an ongoing basis. Making sure their devices stay secure, and guiding them on how to best interact with others online, goes a long way towards keeping our kids safe.