### PARENTS’ GUIDE TO SMARTPHONE SAFETY

Smartphones are essentially little computers, so you might be a little worried when handing one over to your child. Take some time to understand the risks and implement a few safeguards so that you can help your child use smartphones safely.

#### SMARTORSCARY?

1. **Be a parent and a resource.** Establish clear guidelines, including time limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior, but be open so your child will come to you with any problems.
2. **Set up password protection.** This will keep everyone but you and your child from accessing personal information stored on the phone.
3. **Update the operating system.** New versions often contain important security fixes.
4. **Approve apps before they are downloaded.** Make sure you understand their capabilities and approve their content.
5. **Understand location services.** GPS features are useful when using maps, but you’ll want to disable location-tagging when your child posts anything online.

#### THE RISKS

- **Cyberbullying**
  - With the constant connectivity of smartphones, your child may be more susceptible to cyberbullying or have more opportunities to cyberbully others.

- **Geolocation**
  - A GPS-enabled smartphone can reveal your child’s location through online posts and uploaded photos.

- **Inappropriate Content**
  - With smartphones, your child has mobile access to content you may consider inappropriate, such as pornography or violent videos.

- **Sexting**
  - Your child may use the Internet and social apps to send, receive, or forward revealing photos.

- **Viruses & Malware**
  - Just like a computer, a smartphone is vulnerable to security attacks if your child accesses unsecured websites and apps.

#### 5WAYS TO BE SMARTER THAN THE SMARTPHONE!

- **About 1 in 4 teens report owning a smartphone.**

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**For more resources visit** [NetSmartz.org/TipSheets](http://NetSmartz.org/TipSheets)