

## Tech Nuggets : Creating a Digital Safe Haven for children

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- Engage in conversations with your child on the latest technologies and apps that they are interested in. Not only will this help you stay updated, but you will also know what your child does online.
- Make sure you put your devices away when sitting with your children. Children learn from what they see.
- To ensure no inappropriate content is accessible to your child, you can use parental controls built into most platforms. E.g. On browsers, Go to "Settings", and turn on "SafeSearch". You can find a similar setting on YouTube called "**Restricted Mode**" both on the website and the app.
- Build the habit of verifying information that you may receive online. Talk to your children about not believing everything that they see online. Use tools like "**Reverse image search**" to verify images, and "**InVid**" to verify videos.
  - **Reverse Image Search** is the process using which the authenticity of images can be checked. Simply search for "Reverse Image Search" on your internet browser. Use any tool to upload the image you wish to verify. The tool will give you the first instance when the image appeared online, and you can verify if the information you received is correct.
  - **InVid** - It is a tool that can be used to verify videos. You can add the InVid extension to your browser, upload any video and search when the video first appeared on the internet.
- It is advisable not to blame the child if something goes wrong online. Talk about how things went out of hand and how they can be more cautious in the future. Children need to understand how to use the internet properly rather than be scared of it.
- Take a break from your devices and spend time together in other activities, like outings, games, etc. This will help maintain a healthy balance between real and virtual life.
- If you feel your child is using their devices excessively or cannot do without them, do not hesitate in reaching out to experts, like counselors and cyber psychologists, who will be able to give the help and guidance needed.