

INTERNET ACCOUNTABILITY AT HOME: A CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Regardless of whether or not kids visit questionable or objectionable websites, proactive parents can make a habit of talking to their children about what they see and do online. When parents monitor where their children go online using Internet Accountability Reports, Internet use is no longer a secret habit but something discussed openly at home.

Use this guide frequently to have conversations with your kids about their online activity.

INTERPRET THE REPORT

First, review the Report for information about how a child has been using the Internet. Take note of things like web searches, the most visited websites listed in the Site Report, any blocked websites, and the websites with high ratings.

INVESTIGATE THEIR ACTIVITY

In the Detailed Browsing Logs, isolate the web addresses with titles to find out specific sites your child may have visited. Take note of any domains that come up frequently (good or bad), any specific pages they visited, or any pages that seem questionable. Visit those websites if you have any questions.

INITIATE A CONVERSATION

Remember, tone is (almost) everything. The more common and natural these kinds of conversations are about Internet use in your home, the more natural they will seem in instances where more serious discussion is needed.

Below are several conversation openers for your child. Use as many or as few as you want.

1. “I notice you really like going to (specific domain) a lot. What is your favorite things to look at on that website?”
2. “I noticed on your last Report that you went to (specific domain) and looked at (specific page). Do you remember that? What was your favorite part of the page?”
3. “Other than the devices we own in our house, where else do you get online?”
4. When there is either an interesting or objectionable search: “I noticed the other day that you searched for (search query) on (search engine). What made you want to look that up?”
5. When there is a highly rated web address you are concerned about: “There was something on your Report that caught my attention. I noticed you went to (specific domain or page). Do you remember that? What did you think about what you saw there?”
6. When there is a domain listed on the Report with blocked web addresses: “I noticed that our Internet Filter blocks pages from (specific domain). Why do you think that site is always blocked?”