

Teaching kids about tech

1. Share your earliest memory of doing the things below.

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Ask students some extra questions: Who showed the activity to you? How old were you? What did you think of the activity? How did you feel?

- sending an email or creating an email address
- using a mobile phone
- playing a video game
- using online communication tools (chatrooms, Skype, etc.)
- watching a YouTube video
- searching for information online

2. Describe the photos. Then, discuss the questions.



- Think about children's education, free time, the use of technology, etc.:
 - Is being a child more or less difficult than it was in the past? Why?
 - Is being a parent more or less difficult than it was in the past? Why?

3. You are going to watch a video with five tips for parents on how to help children use technology. Look at the categories below and say what the tips might be.

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To make sure students understand the phrases, ask them what the following are: how much time you spend using your phone or laptop (**screen time**); protecting yourself from online dangers (**digital safety**); texts, videos and photos you can find on the internet (**online content**); studying from home (**distance learning**); limiting a child's online access (**parental controls**).

EXAMPLE: parental controls – *Parents should control how much time children spend online. For example, children's online access should be blocked after two hours.*

parental controls

digital safety

online content

distance learning

screen time

4. Watch the [video](https://youtu.be/64mhEVSQYNM) [https://youtu.be/64mhEVSQYNM] and say which tips you didn't talk about in ex. 3.

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Tips from the video:

- Talk to your kids about their interests to understand what apps or games they use or would be interested in using. [00:16]
- Use **parental controls** to limit **screen time** and access to some content. [00:32]
- Have the 'tech talk' with your kids (teach them about **digital safety**) and find programs and activities that will teach them how to use the internet. [00:47]
- Find fun and high quality **online content** that your children will like. [01:04]
- Make sure you know the tech your children use at school (e.g. for **distance learning**). [01:19]

5. Discuss the questions.

- Which three tips from the video are best for parents? Why?
- Who should be responsible for teaching children about technology – schools or parents? Why?
- How do you or someone you know help kids to use devices? Do you/they talk to kids about technology?

6. Discuss what you think the best age to start these activities is.

- use a parent's smartphone as a toy
- have your own smartphone
- play video games
- use YouTube without parental controls
- set up accounts on social media
- use the internet without any parental controls

7. Choose four statements and say if you agree with them. Explain your answers or give examples.

- Most children learn to use technology faster than many adults.
- Kids are often the first to know about apps and services adults have never even heard of.
- Children like using screen devices but it's very difficult for them to put the devices away.
- Technology can teach children more than they learn at school.
- Children and teens use technology to communicate with their friends more than many adults.
- Most parents know passwords to their children's social media accounts, email accounts, etc.
- In the future, children will learn most things from their personal AI assistants.

