

Teaching kids about tech

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

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.

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] 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.

