

**What parents actually can do**

# **5 TIPS ON HOW TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PORN ON THE INTERNET**

Children and young people can easily come across pornographic content and depictions of violence on the Internet, which they are unable to categorize and find overwhelming. Protecting minors on the Internet is an unavoidable issue and should be taken seriously, especially by parents. Parents are not powerless and can take concrete measures to protect and educate their children. It is just as important to talk about the topic of pornography, especially with older children and teenagers, and to impart appropriate knowledge. We want to help parents and children use the Internet in a healthy way without encountering content that is inappropriate for their age.

## **TIP 1: PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PORNOGRAPHY THROUGH TECHNICAL MEASURES**

Particularly technical measures such as activating security settings on the smartphone, tablet or laptop, setting up protected surfing rooms and installing parental control programs minimize the risk of children encountering inappropriate content. But in addition to technical measures, the most important thing is to communicate and exchange ideas with children and young people.

## **TIP 2: ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD WHEN SURFING FOR EFFECTIVE YOUTH PROTECTION**

Parents should accompany their children while they surf the Internet right from the start and teach them how to use the Internet safely. As soon as children start surfing the Internet without a companion, parents should talk to their child in good time about the fact that he or she may come across things on the Net that seem strange or disgusting to him or her. In this way, parents can build up the necessary trust so that their child will turn to them when confronted with appropriate material. It's best for parents to encourage their child to share, even though he or she may find it embarrassing, and promise that he or she won't have to fear any bans or punishments. Talk to your child after surfing just as you would after playing soccer with friends. What did the child enjoy? What sites did he or she visit? What did he or she learn?

### **TIP 3: COMMUNICATE CLEAR RULES**

It can help many children to discuss clear structures and rules with their parents. Explain to your child (depending on age) which content is age-appropriate, which is not, and why. If your child is specifically looking for certain content, you can use this as an opportunity for a discussion. Talk to your child about why he or she finds certain topics interesting, to what extent pornography is unsuitable, and which sources of information would be better. It's best to look for alternatives together.

### **TIP 4: PROVIDE THE RIGHT MATERIALS EARLY AND ENCOURAGE SELF-CRITICAL THINKING**

The ultimate parenting hack is to buy plenty of age- and time-appropriate sex education books or digital literature and put them on your bookshelf. Parents should provide children with talking points, but most importantly, let them explore their questions on their own. Encouraging critical thinking in children helps them not to become passive consumers, but to critically question and correctly classify online content. This promotes a healthy culture of conversation while respecting the individuality of the children and young people involved.

### **TIP 5: WATCH OUT FOR SIGNS AND BEHAVIORS**

Many adolescents do not want to talk to their parents about sexuality after a certain age. Nevertheless, it usually remains a

topic in indirect communication between child and parents. This includes certain remarks, special jokes, or other behaviors that your child displays. It is often an indication of how present a certain topic is and how insecure your child is. As a parent, this is where you can follow up in an empathetic and healthy way, and seek support from a third party if needed.

## CONCLUSION

The bottom line is that as a parent, it's important to stay in conversation with your child. Always keep an eye on your child's media consumption and engage with their interests and concerns.

For more information on protecting boys, visit <https://erotik.com>

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