

Digital reputation

Older children

All internet users will have a digital or online reputation. Essentially, this digital reputation is the opinion that others hold about the user. Children should be encouraged to think about their digital reputation when interacting online. Digital reputations are informed by content that is posted online and how people communicate online. People can be judged on how they behaved as a child well into the future. The following tips can help children begin to understand and manage their digital reputation.

- At this age children's internet use should still be closely monitored. To help with this try to keep the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.
- Explain to your child that the internet is a public place and that the information they share may be online for a long time, so it's important to think carefully about what they post.
- Help your child to develop the skills they need to interact safely and respectfully online. Sit with them and guide their use online and help them learn to communicate appropriately with friends and family.
- Check whether websites your child uses allow them to post information and images. Many social networking websites enable children to post personal information, comments and images which may have an impact on the way others view them. Monitor their use of these websites and be aware of the age guidelines, privacy policies and terms of use.
- If your child is engaged in social networking help children understand and use privacy settings to limit who can see their information.

More information

The Cybersmart program provides a range of cybersafety materials for parents and their children. For more information, resources, advice and tips, visit the Cybersmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au. Encourage your children and teens to take a look around the website. If you have young children, you may like to explore it together to help them understand how to protect themselves against online risks and make the most of their experiences online.