

Respectful Online Communication

Kids love connecting with one another, and being separated drives them to find new ways to interact. After all, necessity is the mother of invention. However, sometimes these interactions turn negative. The need to know what your student is doing online is just as important now as it was a month ago. [Read this article for important information](#) on how kids use Google docs to communicate with each other, and what you need to know. Also, we are hearing reports of some students using instant messaging/chat applications without the social skills and development needed to manage them appropriately. Please talk with your student about the importance of being respectful and kind in all communications. These discussion questions can help:

1. When you talk to friends and classmates online, what is your favorite way to communicate? What do you like about that platform?
2. How do you show respect when you are talking online?
3. People can't hear your tone of voice when you type. How can you make sure friends understand your intentions?
4. Have you experienced any communication through IM, e-mail, text, social media, or other format that made you uncomfortable? If so, how did you handle it?
5. What would you do if someone was being unkind or disrespectful to you online? What would you do if you learned that someone else was being treated disrespectfully?
6. How can I help you maintain your friendships while we have to stay at home?

[Watch this video on digital etiquette](#) with your student, then discuss it as a family.