

## Let's be Share Aware:

**Talk about what's OK, and not OK, to share online...**

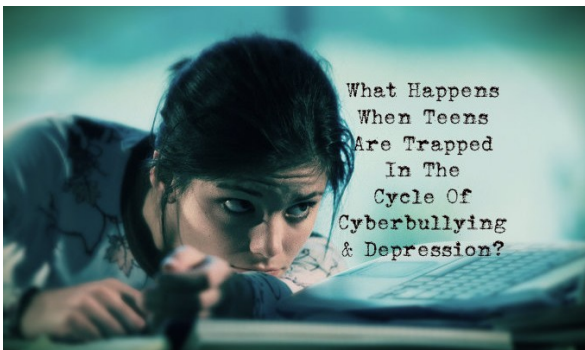
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### Growing World...

Over a short span of time, the world of social media has been a tremendous improvement. From websites offering only simple instant messaging, to changing the look of your images to full grown social networking sites; such as Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, it allows users to engage in multiple simultaneous activities. Social media today has undoubtedly become the talk of the town due to its immense utilization. However, this doesn't mean that this evolution has only brought about positive changes. On the other end of the spectrum, social media websites have contributed to providing new and creative ways to criminals and fraudsters to perform their crimes...



### Trending World!!!



The new trend of selfies is ruling the entire world. Nowadays, many teenagers post personal photos with catchy captions in order to catch up with their trending friends and the society. But in this process, they fail to understand that the online world is far too different from the real world. Teenagers have larger influence of their friends than their parents and unknowingly end up making mistakes.

**Instagram**, being a popular platform for instantly enhancing photos and videos with cool effects and sharing them across a number of social media platforms is a cause of anxiety, depression, sleep disorders and bullying, according to the surveys conducted.

## What should parents know about Instagram?

1. Kids and teens love using the photo-sharing app **Instagram** because it lets them apply cool effects and captions to photos and videos and easily share them across a number of social media platforms. The ability to quickly change the look of their pics makes their lives look little more awesome.



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2. **Collecting a large number of followers** -- and flattering comments -- is a badge of honour for diehards. On the other hand, negative comments can be really hurtful. If your kid uses *Instagram*, **make sure he/she knows how to comment respectfully** and deal with haters.
3. The terms specify that users should be at least **13 years old** and should not post sexually suggestive photos but it does not prohibit the portrayal of violence, swear words, or drugs.

4. **Photos shared on Instagram are public** and **may have location information** unless privacy settings are adjusted. Tagging a location when posting will show where the photo or video was captured including private vicinities. Explaining to your child the consequences of this is advisable. **So it's important for kids to use privacy settings to limit their audience.**

**There are various steps you can take to make sure your child's profile and experience are both as safe as possible starting with the option of a Public or Private Profile:**

#### Private Profile

This ensures only followers that your child knows and approves personally can see their posts.

#### Public Profile

All posts and activity can be seen by everyone who uses the app and web version of Instagram.

**By default, all profiles are Public**, a Private Profile can be activated by selecting the gear icon in the top right of the profile view followed by Private Profile.

#### The sharing and posting of content

##### Public

The most relaxed profile setting. **All photos and videos are searchable and can be viewed and commented on by all users.**

##### Private

Videos and photos are only seen by **'approved followers'**. All followers must be approved by your child.

##### Direct

Instagram has an option to send content directly to up to 15 people. Messages are deleted after 2 weeks if they remain ignored.

**Talking to your child – openly, and regularly – is the best way to help keep them safe online.**



- **Reassure them that you won't overreact** – you're just looking out for them.

- **Talk to your child about what 'personal information' is** - such as email address, full name, phone number, address and school name - and why it's important.
- **Explain simple ways to protect privacy.** For example, avoiding usernames like birthdates or locations that give away too much information.
- Discuss images and photos, and what might be appropriate. **Help your child understand how photographs can give people a sense of your personality,**

and that sharing the wrong kind of image can give the wrong impression.

- ***Explain that it isn't easy to identify someone online.*** People aren't always who they say they are, so don't share personal information. If it's someone who genuinely knows your child, they shouldn't need to ask for personal information online.
- ***Tell your child that if they're in any doubt they should talk to you first.***