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6 Things to consider before sharing photos of your child online

One of the great things about social media is the ease with which we can share moments from our lives with others online. In some ways, sharing photos on social networks has replaced the traditional photo album, but as parents we should be careful about how much information we share online about our children. In addition to the obvious privacy risks with oversharing, children/teens are now faced with the worry of managing their online reputation and fear of digital shame.

Considerations for Parents

There are no hard and fast rules for this topic, however there are some things to consider before you hit the share button:

- Ask yourself **will this photo cause my child embarrassment** now or in the future? Everything we post online creates a digital footprint and for young people maintaining a good online reputation is becoming increasingly important. Parents should consider any long-term risks of sharing photos of their child online.
- **Check Your Settings:** Social networks regularly update settings so it is important to review your settings. If you are a regular user of Facebook, the social network allows users to do a Privacy Checkup which makes it very easy for users to understand who they are sharing content with.
- **Who will see my photos?** Ensure you are happy with your privacy settings and understand who may potentially see your images. It is a good idea to regularly review your friend/connections on social networks. Some networks for example Facebook allow users to limit/customise who they share posts with.
- **Somethings will always be public.** Parents should beware that some posts/photos are always public for example; Twitter profile photos, Facebook cover images and featured photos.
- **Is your location service disabled?** Many social networks and apps allow you to share your location. Some people may not be aware this function is automatically enabled on some apps and networks. Consider reviewing this when sharing family photos.
- **Lead by example:** Finally, be selective about what you share online, children learn by example, we would encourage parents to follow a good example on their own social profiles and networks.

For more advice on this and many other matters to do with the online world visit

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