



OAKLEIGH GRAMMAR

EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS

PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Establishing ground rules for technology use at home:

Technology use should be in line with your own family's values and already established ground rules. The following tips, strategies and resources for technology use at home will provide guidance in establishing good behaviours.

- Designate specific areas in the home for use of technology tools:
You may decide that homework and research must be done outside the bedroom, in a location visible to you.

In this manner, an adult can monitor technology usage at any moment.

- Keep iPad charger plugged into the wall in a main room:

We require that students bring the iPad to school fully charged each day. By leaving the charger plugged in a common area of the house, this ensures the device is not only fully charged, but is left in plain sight at the end of the evening.

- Set time limits for iPad use:

You may decide that once homework is complete, there is a set amount of time to use the iPad for other purposes. You may establish a time in the day, say 9pm, after which the iPad must be placed on charge. You may even set a timer on the iPad or your own iDevice that alerts you and your child when time is up. If you are looking for a timer app, see Timers for iPad.

- Shut off wifi:

You can shut off wifi on the iPad itself, or even shut off wifi at the house altogether during certain hours of the day. This allows your child to continue to use the iPad for reading, writing or other activity that does not require internet access.

- Set restrictions on the iPad:

You can set restrictions on the iPad, such as shutting off access to Safari or Youtube, using a passcode. You can even choose to do this temporarily, such as in the evenings, then open things back up during the day.



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- Set volume limits while using earbuds or headphones:

For more information on this topic, view this article from Generation Deaf about the research behind this, and instructions on how you can set maximum volume levels on the iPad (which are the same as iPod/iPhone).

- Techniques for checking on-task behavior
Teachers will use these techniques in the classroom, but they are also relevant for the home:

- o Flip the screen:

If you want to see what your child is doing, ask them to flip the screen to you. It's a nice, simple way to check what they are working on. The screen will automatically orient correctly, unless they have chosen to lock orientation. Either way, you can see the screen. Tip: you can also tell when they click the home button in a panic to get out of what they are doing.

- o Double-click on the home button to check the multi-task bar:

Double-clicking the home button will reveal the most recent apps your child has been working (from left to right). If they say they weren't watching Youtube videos, you can verify by checking the apps starting from the left.

SOURCES:

Common Sense on Internet Safety for Middle School Kids

<http://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/internetsafetymiddle-tip.pdf>

Family Media Agreement Form:

This form from Common Sense Media provides a contract in clear language between parents and child for appropriate use of technology and proper online behaviour.



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