

DANGER ZONE

Parenting In The Digital Age



RULES FOR ALL TECHNOLOGY

TEN RULES TO DEVELOP CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

DANGER ZONE: Parenting In The Digital Age

A graphic of a smartphone with a white screen. On the screen, there is a blue speech bubble containing the text "Today's Technology".

Today's Technology

RULE ONE

You do not own the device. Your parents own the device, and you are permitted to access the device. If the device is not used in a responsible way, your access will be restricted and even removed.

RULE TWO

Passwords are not secrets. Your parents will have unlimited access to the device. All passwords will be shared. The device passwords and any application passwords will be shared.

RULE THREE

You do not have privacy. Your parents are your parents, and they are not here to help you get away with what others your age might do. Digital access is not a right, it is a luxury. Every text, message, private message, direct message, or any message of any kind is not private. The internet is forever.

RULE FOUR

You do not have the ability to add or remove apps from the device. Your parents are the only ones who have the ability and access to add or remove apps. This includes smart phones, tablets or gaming consoles. The digital world is not just for phones.

RULE FIVE

You might receive content that you know has zero parental approval. Remember that others might not live by the same rules. Life is not fair, and you do not have a choice here. If someone ask for a sexy photo, talk to your parents. If you receive a sexy photo, talk to your parents.

Do not panic. All problems can be fixed.

RULE SIX

Parental controls are on your phone. This is not an option. This is not removable. This is not to be tampered with, or access will be removed. Your parents will know what you do and what you receive. This is not because we do not trust you, but because we live in a digital reality.

RULE SEVEN

You will answer your parents, ASAP. If you miss a call or text from your parents, simply respond. Call Back or Text Back.

The primary purpose of the phone is for communication. Other digital mediums are different. Failure to communicate with your parents is a red flag.

RULE EIGHT

Your devices are not unlimited in time or usage. You will only use the approved devices during designated time periods. Shared spaces like the kitchen and family room provide accountability and are safe zones for you to use your devices. They will not be in your room overnight or when you are alone. No-Phone zones for our family include bedrooms, bathrooms, mealtimes, school, church, or family gatherings.

RULE NINE

Your personality is not digital. Social media, gaming, and other digital sites are great but do not let it become who you are and what you are. Nothing replaces Face-To-Face contact. Nothing replaces the ability to talk to others. Never say anything in a text that you would not say Face-To-Face. Learn to live without batteries.

RULE TEN

You can break the rules, and you will not get away with it *FOREVER*. Having these devices are expensive. Your parents pay for the devices and any monthly services charges. As with any valuable possession, it must be taken care of to remain valuable. Devices can be taken away for any amount of time. This is a privilege and not a right.

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