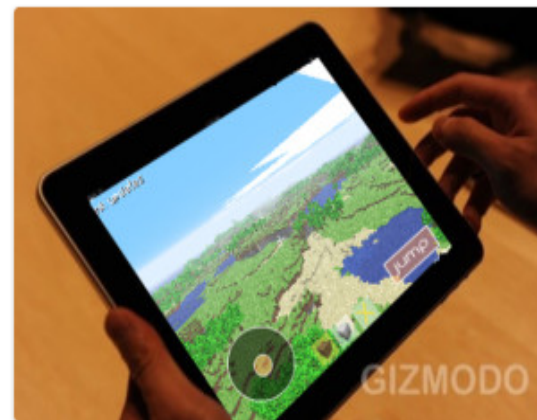# Internet Safety Cheat Sheet

The Internet Safety Cheat Sheet is a list of non-techie explanations that teach you how to quickly adjust settings on your computer and mobile devices to make the web a safer place for your kids.

Minecraft

Minecraft is a fun and highly addictive game, popular with both kids and adults. When in "creative mode" it's like playing with virtual Legos. There are lots of techie details about servers & seeds you can research further, but here are some simple things to look out for:

1. Minecraft YouTube videos sometimes contain profanity in the commentary, and ideas on how to bully other players. Pre-screening the videos is a good idea.
2. Search for "profanity free minecraft servers" if your child wants to play on a public, multi-player server.
3. If you have some technical ability, set up your own private Minecraft server, where you can play among select friends and family.
4. The game does contain some pretty benign zombie-type monsters and trolls.
5. If your child enjoys multi-player games, teach them to keep the chat window closed. Minecraft for mobile devices is single player only.
6. It is a really addictive game, so establish time limits in advance.
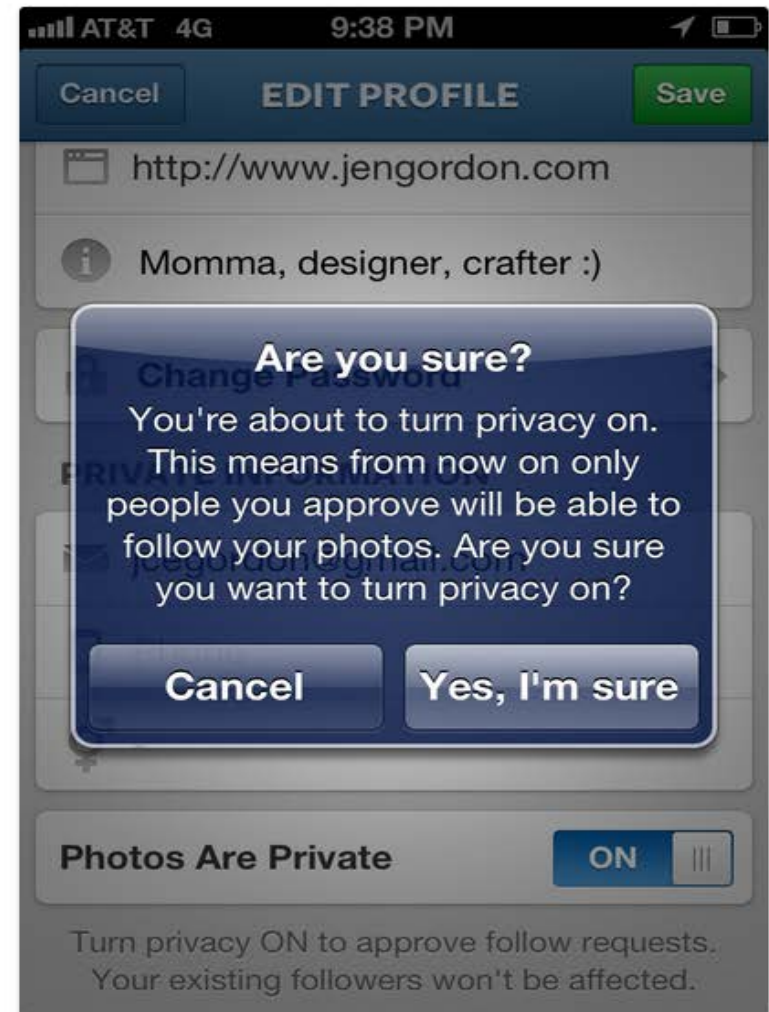
Instagram

If you haven't manually set your Instagram account to "Private", all of your photos are publicly available for anyone to view. Not a huge deal when you're posting photos of rainbows and unicorns. But, when you're posting location-tagged photos of a beach trip, or time with friends you intend to share only with friends, make sure your account is set up to protect your privacy.

1. Open the Instagram mobile app and tap the Profile icon on the bottom nav bar.
2. Tap "Edit your Profile"
3. Scroll down to the "Photos Are Private" on/off switch and flip the toggle "On".

*Note: Making your profile private doesn't protect you 100%. If you have friends whose profiles are "Public", they can take screenshots of your photos and repost for public viewing.

Ben Patterson has compiled 6 additional privacy tips you'll also wanna check out: 6 must-know privacy tips for Instagram newbies.

iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch Parental Controls

Apple calls their parental controls "Restrictions". You can lock these restrictions by setting a 4-digit passcode. Only those who know this passcode can change restrictions. If you have multiple devices, each device needs Restrictions set up individually. The settings do not sync between multiple devices.

This is the "Settings" icon.

1. Tap on Settings > General > Restrictions
2. Scroll through the list of options. These settings allow you to restrict access to specific apps (Ex: Safari, Camera), installing/deleting apps, and content based on its age rating.

Apple's App Store guidelines are very clear about pornography in apps: "Apps containing pornographic material, defined by Webster's Dictionary as "explicit descriptions or displays of sexual organs or activities intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings", will be rejected." However, Apple's policies against pornography are inconsistently enforced, so don't rely on the Restrictions functionality 100%.

You can quickly disable your restrictions by tapping the "Disable Restrictions" button.

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Set up Google Safe Search to add a layer of protection between your kids and content that's not age appropriate.

Google Search is not built for kids researching school projects. It's built for everyone, looking for everything! Follow the steps below to set up SafeSearch and Instant prediction filters for Google.

1. Go to: http://www.google.com/preferences

2. Under "SafeSearch filters" click "filter explicit results". If you want to lock these settings, click on the "Lock SafeSearch" link (FYI you must have a Gmail account to lock SafeSearch. It's worth signing up for an account even if you never use it.)

3. Under "Google instant predictions" click the "never show instant results" radio button. Instant predictions pre-populate the search box with other popular searches that may be inappropriate, or not what your child is actually looking for. See an example >

4. Be sure to hit "Save" after you make your changes.

SafeSearch filters

Turn on SafeSearch to filter sexually explicit content from your search results.

☑ Filter explicit results.   Lock SafeSearch

Google Instant predictions
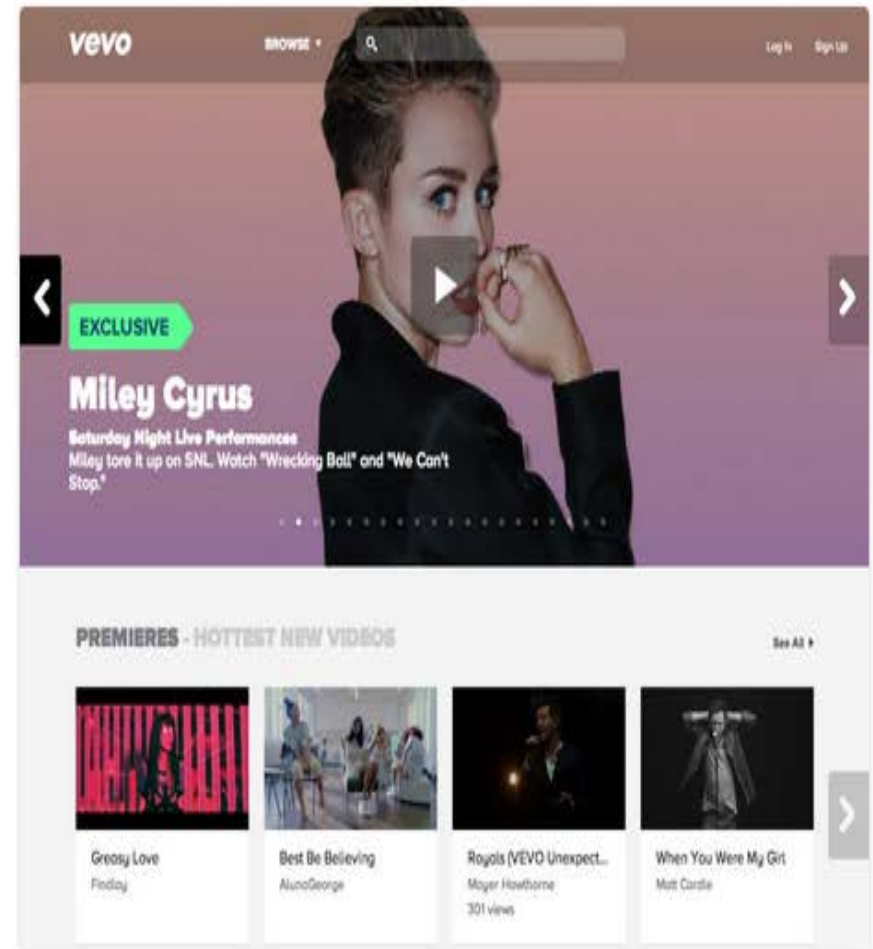
When should we show you results as you type?

◯ Only when my computer is fast enough.

◯ Always show Instant results.

◉ Never show Instant results.

Vevo

Vevo is a music video site that features a variety of artists. The site does not have any parental control settings as of October 2013. The site has plenty of safe content and plenty of inappropriate content. In my research I found parents concerned about sexually explicit videos, foul language, violence etc. What's new. 😃
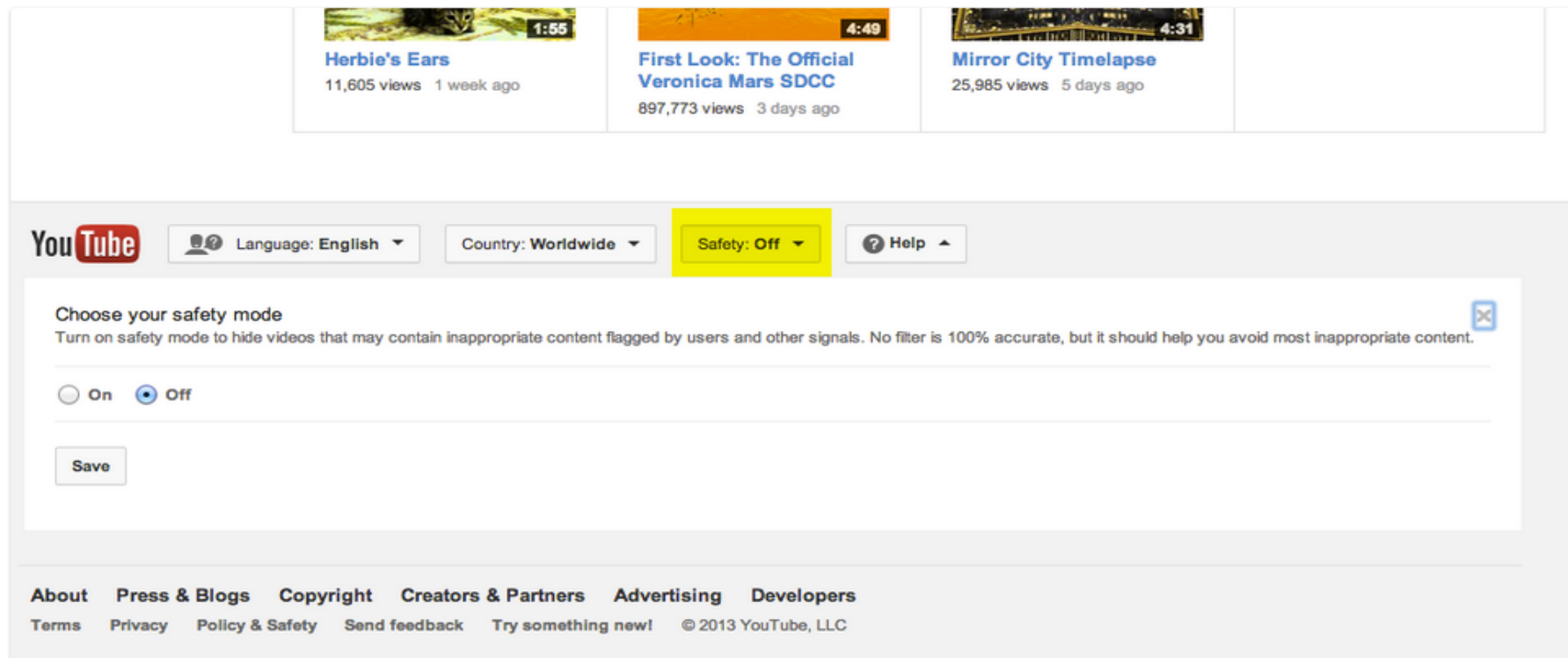
This site is one you'll want to browse with your teens, and one you'll probably want to pass on for young kids.

YouTube

YouTube's "Safety Mode" disables videos with age restrictions and/or mature content from showing up in a video search. Note: the filter isn't 100% accurate. Google uses community flagging and porn image detection to also help identify and hide inappropriate content. Safety Mode on YouTube does not remove content from the site, but does make it invisible to those who have Safety Mode enabled.

1. To turn on Safety Mode, go to YouTube
2. Scroll to the the bottom of the page and click "Safety: off" to open the preference setting
3. Select the "On" radio button
4. Click "Save"

Herbie's Ears
11,605 views   1 week ago   `1:55`

First Look: The Official Veronica Mars SDCC
897,773 views   3 days ago   `4:49`

Mirror City Timelapse
25,985 views   5 days ago   `4:31`

You Tube   Language: English ▼   Country: Worldwide ▼   Safety: Off ▼   Help ▲

Choose your safety mode
Turn on safety mode to hide videos that may contain inappropriate content flagged by users and other signals. No filter is 100% accurate, but it should help you avoid most inappropriate content.

○ On   ● Off

Save