Tips for Parents on Sexting & Teens

The best tech safety policy is education and trust.

tips:

❖ Make behavioral expectations clear to teens.
  Have frequent discussions about the responsibilities and privileges associated with the use of technology.

❖ Be familiar with technology kids are using.
  Email, texting, IMing, chatting, gaming, social networking, web and cell phone cameras.

❖ Become familiar with texting acronyms.
  CTN = Can’t Talk Now, TDTM = Talk Dirty To Me and NIFC= Nude in Front of Camera
  For more translations, visit netlingo.com

❖ Use teachable moments.
  Local and national news stories about Internet and electronic crimes provide opportunities to discuss these issues. Google “sexting news” for related articles.

❖ Supervise teens online and electronically.
  Let them know you are monitoring them because you love them and care about their future. Don’t rely entirely on parental control software; your teens can quickly bypass these!

❖ Google Search your child’s name in quotations.
  You may be surprised what you find.

❖ If you think your youngster is Sexting...
  Monitor their cell phone use. Check cell phone Messages (Sent & Inbox), Recent Calls (Received) and Media Center (Pictures & Videos and Downloads.)

❖ Pics don’t stay private.
  Once sent, they can’t be retrieved, they can be forwarded to many other people and they can’t be erased.

❖ Think before Forwarding.
  If a teen forwards a nude pic of a minor, he/she becomes the original sender of child pornography, which is against the law – even if they’re a minor too.

❖ Images and blogs have future consequences.
  They are available for the entire world to see and share. This includes school officials, law enforcement, college admissions departments and future employers.

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