

# Social Networking 101

## What are social networks?

Online communities where people keep in touch with existing friends, or meet new online friends.

## What do kids do there?

Create online profiles, chat with other members, share pictures or videos, take quizzes, write blogs, and more.

## Examples:

Popular social networking sites include MySpace, Facebook, Xanga, and Bebo. Some sites for younger children, such as Webkinz or Neopets, also include social networking components.

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# Social Networking: Tips for Parents

**Utilize privacy settings.** Only allow people you trust in real life to access your child's social networking circle.

**Monitor your child's online profile.** Make sure your child is not revealing *any* identifying information in a public forum.

**Be reasonable.** Social networking is here to stay. Restricting access entirely may cause your child to rebel or create accounts behind your back. Instead, make it something you do together. Consider getting an account yourself and becoming part of your child's social circle!

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