

prävention@home Ein digitaler Elternabend in einfacher Sprache.

The online parent-teacher-meeting offers tips on smartphones both for parents and children.

WhatsApp is usually the first chat program that is being installed on a new cell phone. Maybe you are using it too.

Today I am going to give you some advice for using WhatsApp, which you can show your children.

On WhatsApp we talk different than in normal life. When we say the words loud, they may sound different from typing or reading them. This can lead to misunderstandings while we are chatting on WhatsApp. The kids must learn slowly. Help your child and exercise together with-it using WhatsApp.

In the group chat of your kids' class there can be sometimes trouble.

Using WhatsApp is usually for kids older than 16 years. Nevertheless, there are many group chats for younger kids from younger classes on WhatsApp.

There are chats from classes in which are sent pornographic, racist, or violent things. Alternatively, the kids just argue and insult each other.

It is important that you as a parent sometimes have a look on what is being written or sent in those chats. You can also talk to the teacher if you find something strange.

There are some suggestions I can make you for group chats, which you can tell your kid or the teacher:

- Not everyone in those group chats can be an administrator. It means that there can only be 2 or 3 kids that have all rights. Have frequently a look at the chat together with the teacher.
- The time in which the chat can be used should be regulated. For example, the chat should not be used between 9 p.m. to 7 a. m. The kids should sleep without being interrupted by their cell phone.
- There is no place for violence in the chat of the class, neither written nor on photos.
- The kids should be respectful to each other.
- Everyone can be a part of the group chat but shouldn't be forced to.
- If there is a kid that hasn't got a cell phone or WhatsApp, tell him or her what is written and talked in the chat.
- There are more suggestions for group chats for school classes on www.klick-safe.de

Protect your child from WhatsApp.

The internet can give us many fun and information. But there also the criminals. You can protect your child. Activate the privacy setting on WhatsApp. Click in WhatsApp on "settings", then tap on "Account" und than on "privacy".

There you can activate or inactivate:

- Who can see when you have been online the last time?
- Who can see your profile picture?
- Who can see your profile information?
- Who can see your status?
- Who is allowed to add you to groups?

You can also inactivate that pictures will be downloaded automatically on you cell phone which have been sent through WhatsApp.

It is illegal to have restricted pictures on your cell phone. Especially pornographic pictures including children."

You may think now "My child does not have such things on its cell phone". Your child is not the perpetrator, but it can receive such photos or others on its cell phone through one of the groups on WhatsApp because it is a member. Unfortunately, it happens very often.

You can activate the function on WhatsApp that regulates automatically downloading photos from WhatsApp to the phone.

On android and iPhone cell phones, you must open the settings in WhatsApp. Then you go to "storage and data". There you can deactivate the Media Auto-Download for everything.

These tips are just suggestions. You can decide for yourself what you want and can apply to your everyday life.

It's important for you to know what your child is doing on its smartphone. That's why you should talk to your child about smartphones.

You can find more videos on smartphone handling on my website. Take a look!