



SAFE ON SOCIAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Safety Tips for the Metaverse

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Various companies are developing the metaverse to connect people and their interests in interactive online environments that allow them to explore as avatars or other digital embodiments of themselves. It is an evolution of Web 2.0's flat interfaces. It combines features from social media platforms, gaming worlds, extended reality (such as Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), or a combination of both), and online transactions.

Learn about and use advanced safety features that companies are now releasing. Some VR platforms have features like "Personal Boundary" and "Safe Zone" that users can activate to prevent others from touching or interacting with them. Ensure your children know about these tools and use them as protective measures.

Teach them to be skeptical of anyone who asks personal or sensitive questions. VR interactions can feel realistic and innocent, but children should be cautious about disclosing personal information, such as their school, age, or social media usernames. Children should also remember that anyone or anything can be embodied in an avatar, including predators and viruses. They need to make sure their security and privacy settings are locked down across all of their social media platforms. People will join the dots.

Teach children how to switch between in-game servers. This way, they can quickly escape from a situation where they are being harassed. Watch for any behavioural changes and ask them how certain VR games and apps make them feel.

Encourage young people to talk about their immersive experiences with you. Or even show you so you can learn about the world that many young people (and adults) are fascinated by.

Use the basic safety controls that come with the VR software. Teach your child to mute or block users who act in harmful ways, and encourage them to report abusive users.

Set up unlock patterns to age-gate VR content. If children share headsets with siblings of different ages and maturity levels, you can set up specific unlock patterns for other games or apps. You can also set up an unlock pattern for the headset to control access.

Restrict younger children's access to single-player games before introducing them to multiplayer games. When introducing them to multiplayer games, consider those that are cooperative and require teamwork. Choose fun and inspiring apps that teach real-world skills, such as science, travel, or culture.

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