

Helping Your Children with Appropriate Online Expression

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What is Appropriate Online Expression?

Appropriate online expression refers to online communication which is socially appropriate and does not bring about conflicting opinions and stereotypes. With appropriate online expression, one can create a meaningful and positive presence in the cyber community. However, youths may engage in inappropriate online expression either intentionally or unintentionally.

Examples of inappropriate online expressions include



Using vulgarities

- Using vulgar words to provoke an online fight

Possible Sites:

- Online games (e.g. *Mobile Legends, Minecraft*)



Pretending to be someone else

- Creating a false representation of self online due to a desire to 'hide' or deceive

Possible Sites:

- Social news websites (e.g. *STOMP, Mothership*)



Posting insensitive content

- Creating and posting images / videos that may offend or hurt others (e.g. public shaming)

Possible Sites:

- Meme pages (e.g. *Kiasu Memes for Singaporean Teens, Finsta*)



Going too far in attracting "Likes" online

- Curating picture-perfect photos or videos of oneself or others so as to garner online "Likes" (e.g. performing dangerous challenges)

Possible Sites:

- Social networking sites (e.g. *Snapchat, Facebook*)
- Internet Challenges (e.g. *#IceBucketChallenge, pakour*) through YouTube

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Why is it a Concern?

- Everything online is searchable, replicable, and contributes to a permanent digital reputation
- Inappropriate online expression may affect a child's social, emotional and mental well-being

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How can Parents Help?

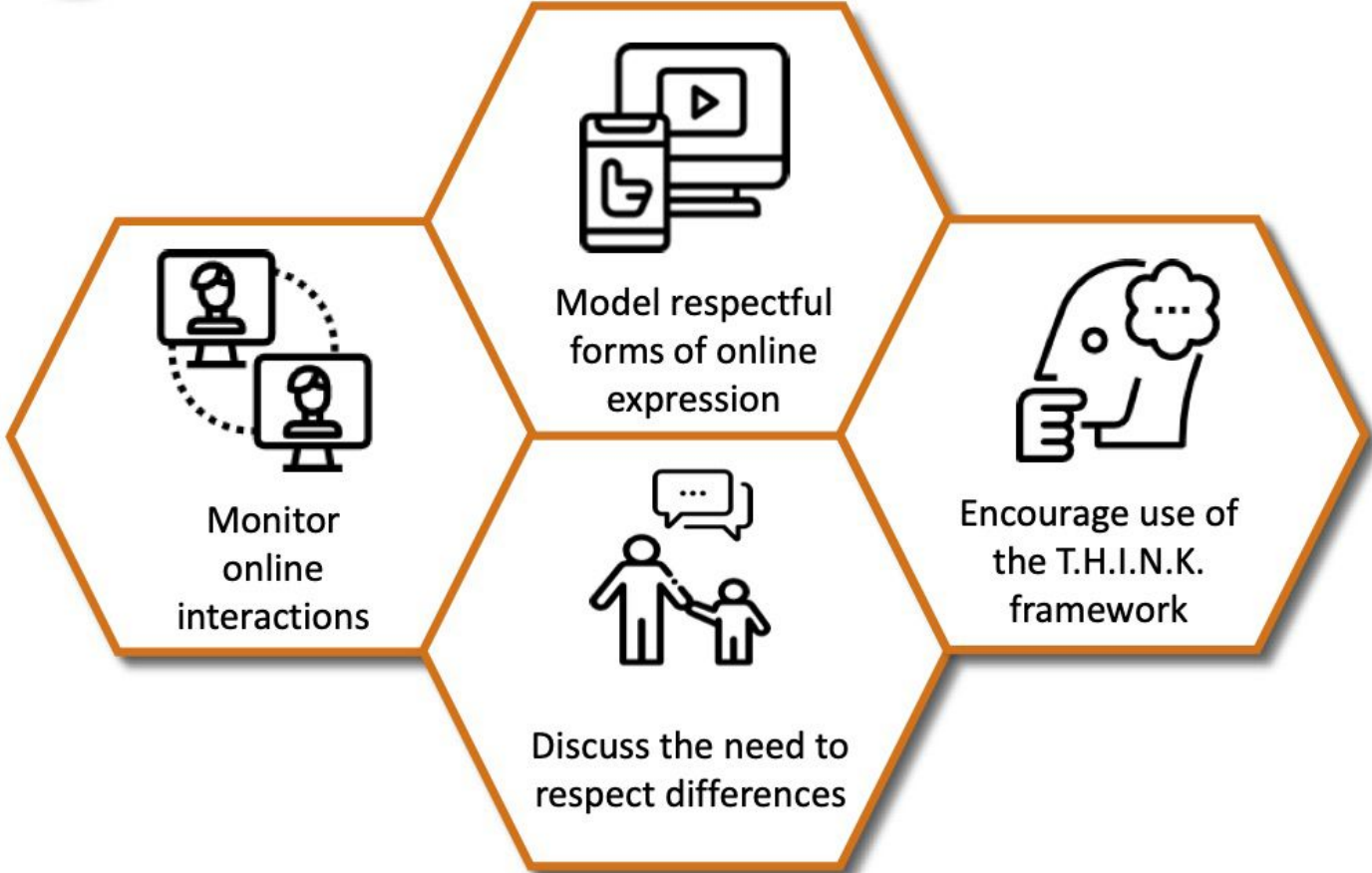
Parents can help by:

- ✓ Modelling respectful forms of online expression
 - e.g. not engaging in aggressive expressions while gaming online or on social media
- ✓ Sharing examples of positive online expressions
 - e.g. inspirational stories from social media
- ✓ Encouraging use of the T.H.I.N.K. framework before posting anything online
 - Is it True, is it Helpful, is it Inspiring, is it Necessary, is it Kind?
- ✓ Discussing with children the need to respect differences in views, opinions and beliefs
 - Encourage them to respond politely and objectively even if they disagree with what others say
- ✓ Monitoring the interactions of their children with others on social media or online games
 - e.g. connect with their children on social media, join them in online games





Key Messages



Resources



MOE Cyber Wellness Portal
 Useful tips, strategies and resources on various cyber issues.
ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness



Media Literacy Council
 Information, tips and resources by Media Literacy Council on managing online expression.
betterinternet.sg/-/media/Resources/PDFs/Youth-Guides/Media-Wise-Youth-Guide.pdf



Clique Click
 Handbook produced by MLC to help parents guide their children on their internet journey.
betterinternet.sg/-/media/Resources/PDFs/Parents-Guides/CliqueClick-Parent-Guide.pdf