

How to Protect Your Child from Identity Theft

Children are especially vulnerable to identity theft. Here are ways to keep them cyber-safe:

Age
0-5

Protect

- Consider freezing their credit until 18 years old
- Limit Personally Identifiable Information (PII) shared about your child on social media
- Safely shred documents containing their PII before disposal

Understand

- Know the warning signs of ID theft:
 - IRS notices of unpaid taxes
 - Debt collection notices
 - Denial of government benefits
- Request privacy policies to know if a child's full Social Security Number (SSN) is required or will be shared after submitting

Age
5-10

Control

- Verify what is required on school forms, directories, etc.
- Use parental control settings and ad-blocks to prevent pop-ups that may record data

Age
10+

Manage

- Routinely review and adjust privacy settings on your child's online accounts and apps
- Update software, apps, and virus protection

Educate

- Review PII and the importance of limiting what is shared on social media
- Show them how to create memorable, strong, and secure passwords
- Discuss malicious cyber threats such as social engineering, phishing, and viruses

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