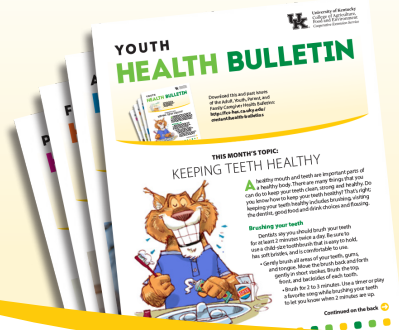


YOUTH HEALTH BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2025

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<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/health-bulletins>

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC TECH TALK

Using tablets, phones, video games, and TV can be a lot of fun. But you should also know when to take a break. Having limits around when to use and not use something is called setting boundaries. Technology boundaries, or “tech boundaries,” are simple rules we follow to make sure we’re using screens in a way that keeps our bodies, brains, and feelings healthy. Think of these boundaries like a superpower shield. They help you enjoy technology while still protecting your time for all the other awesome parts of life.



Continued on the next page →

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Try balancing screen time with other activities, like dancing, riding your bike, or creating things.

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Having limits around screens is important for a few reasons. First, too much screen time can make your eyes and body feel tired. It might even make you cranky or bored. Taking breaks gives your brain and body time to rest and grow. Boundaries also help you stay safe online. They keep you from seeing things that make you uncomfortable or sharing too much personal stuff. And best of all, setting limits on screens gives you more time to do fun things like playing outside, drawing, reading, or spending time with family and friends.

There are lots of simple limits you can try. For example, you can set a timer for 20 to 30 minutes to remind you when to take a break. You might choose to be tech-free in certain places or at specific times, such as at the dinner table or right before bed. Try balancing screen time with other activities, like dancing, riding your bike, or creating things. It's also a great idea to check how you feel after using screens. If you notice you feel grumpy or sleepy, that's a sign it's time to do something else for a while.

To make your tech boundaries work, talk to a grown-up about your plan. They can help remind you and cheer you on. You could also make a fun chart or draw pictures to keep track of how well you're doing. Sharing your plan with friends and family can help you stick with it. It might make others want to set healthy boundaries of their own.



Your parents and teachers want to help you learn how to use technology safely. If you ever see or hear anything on a screen that makes you feel sad, uncomfortable, or scared, talk to them about it. Never share your personal information (like your address, school name, or phone number) or photos of yourself without your parents' permission.

When you use technology with limits, great things happen. You feel more focused, rested, and in a better mood. You also get to enjoy more of the world around you and learn new things in different ways. Most importantly, you become a Tech Time Hero. That's someone who knows how to use screens wisely, safely, and in a way that keeps life full of fun, learning, and adventure!

REFERENCE:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/building-healthy-relationships-with-media-activities.pdf>

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