

prävention@home

Ein digitaler Elternabend in einfacher Sprache.

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

With the application Snapchat, you can send messages and photos, but you can also make videos send them. I will explain to you today what exactly is special about Snapchat and what you must be aware of, if your kid uses this app.

The company, which made Snapchat, wants its users to be as often online on Snapchat as possible so that your kids send messages and make videos and watch the advertises. In addition, to remind its users of using Snapchat they invented Snapchat-Flame.

The flame appears when your child sends a message or a photo to one of its friends. The flame disappears when the friend of your child does not answer within 24 hours. If you want to keep the flame on you have to answer within 24 hours and if you do these three days in a row, there is going to appear the number 3 next to the flame. And so on.

With every day, your kid sends something to its friend and the friend answers within 24 hours the flame keeps growing.

Youngster and children – and many grownups – want a flame that keeps growing. You “have” to answer and that can lead to stress.

In addition, if you have many friends with flames, you must send many pictures so that the flame keeps growing.

It leads to the thought “I have to be online every day, so the flame keeps burning”.

If your kid does not get a picture back, it can lead to anger, because the flame will go out.

The kids should be mad at Snapchat, because Snapchat tries to trick them with this flam to be online more often. What do you think?

Protect your child on Snapchat.

As everywhere on the internet or on apps it is better to not share to much information. This is, especially for kids, very important. Help your children and I will help and advise you:

Click above on the left on your profile and on the right side appears the settings sign. There you can fill in your information.

I suggest that your kids do not use their real name. They should use a nickname and their parent’s email-address.

A little below you can choose:

- Who is allowed to contact your child?
- Who is allowed to see your child's stories? The videos on Snapchat are called "Stories".
- Who is allowed to your child's position?

I suggest that you allow all this, only to your child's friends.

I told you that it is possible to see your child's position. I will explain that to you a little bit better.

Snapchat has a map called "Snapmap". On that map, you can see all Snapchat-Users of the world. Your child's position can be seen very exactly by everyone who has its phone number.

So why is that so dangerous?

Many kids and youngsters get many contact requests from unknown people. If your child accepts a contact request from an unknown person, the person can see where your child is on the "Snapmap".

If your child insists on using the map, you can choose in the settings the ghost mode.

To activate the ghost mode, you have to click on the settings and choose the option that only friends can see your child's position on the map.

The map shows you all the Snapchat-users on the planet. You can also see red spots on it. You can tap on those spots and the map will show you the videos from this part of the world. It is possible to do that even though your child has not any friends there.

Those videos are not filtered. There can be funny ones, but also videos from a place of war or from people who are addicted to drugs, or they can be violent. Those are inappropriate videos for your child.

I suggest that you deactivate the map if you have a young child.

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!