

A Tip from the PTA

Family media strategies from the PTA



Empowering Your Child to Use Good Judgment in the Digital Age

Do you know what "sexting" is? Today's digital technologies are great for staying in touch and make it almost effortless to instantly send photos of the new baby or a short movie of your child's birthday party to distant relatives. It's so easy, we don't think about the fact that it can cause trouble, especially for kids.

In sexting, children send provocative photos of themselves to their boy- or girlfriends and consider it harmless flirting. In some cases, however, sexting is being prosecuted as possessing and distributing child pornography. In others, the recipient may share the pictures with friends at school or in the neighborhood. Either way, a reputation or a life can be ruined.

That's why it's so important to keep an ongoing and open dialogue with your children about their Internet and cell phone use, so they feel comfortable coming to you if they receive a picture like this or observe one of their friends doing something inappropriate.

If your child has a digital camera (including in a cell phone), talk to her about thinking before she sends pictures or movies to a friend or posts them on a website. Is it something she would want others to see? Is this the image she wants to project to the world? Thinking twice before sending is the best way to prevent problems!

For more tips on children's media issues, visit PTA's [Media Safety](#) or Cable in the Classroom's [Media Smart for Parents](#).

Family-Friendly Cable Programs in April

Cable in the Classroom presents a sampling of entertaining TV programs for family viewing



Yo Gabba Gabba!: New Friends (Nickelodeon)

April 3 at 1:30 PM ET/PT

Jack Black is the guest star for this episode of Nickelodeon's live-action children's series. Black arrives in Gabbaland, riding a mini dirt bike, lost and scared. He soon makes friends with the Gabba gang, and they help him find his way home. TV-Y.



Alaska Week (Discovery Channel)

April 12–17 at 9:00 PM ET/PT

Explore America's last great frontier during a week of all-new programming that includes *Dirty Jobs*, *Mythbusters*, the season premieres of *Deadliest Catch* and *Out of the Wild: Alaska Experiment*, and the specials *Untamed Alaska*, and *Extreme Alaska*. TV-PG.



Love Takes Wing (Hallmark Channel)

April 4 at 9:00 PM ET/PT

This Hallmark Channel original movie (pictured) is the latest entry in the film series based on the *Love Comes Softly* series of novels by Janette Oke. When a frontier town is devastated by an unknown illness, a young woman must stand up for those who need her help the most, even if it means standing alone. TV-PG.

Build it Bigger (Science Channel)

April 21 at 9:00 PM ET/PT

Armed with a Harvard education, a quirky sense of humor, and an inquisitive nature, Danny Forster spans the globe to break down the ultimate construction projects in this new series from Science Channel. From public works and private buildings to warships and cruise ships, Danny's experience as a professional architect, as well as his enthusiasm for structural design and the building process, brings viewers inside engineering marvels. TV-PG.

Escape to Chimp Eden (Animal Planet)

April 3 at 9:00 PM ET/PT

In the second season of this Animal Planet series, chimp rescuer Eugene Cussons raises the stakes as he stops at nothing to pull the entire species from the brink of extinction, including finding a location deep in the forest of Angola where it's possible to set up a protected reserve as a natural wild homeland for rescued and fully rehabilitated chimps. TV-PG.



Garbage Moguls (National Geographic Channel)

April 22 at 9:00 PM ET/PT

Bottles of water, coffee containers, soda cans, milk cartons, cookie wrappers -- you name it, we consume it and then throw the waste away. But what if you didn't throw away the wrapper? What if you could use every piece of garbage for another function? National Geographic Channel follows an eco-capitalism team that has learned to develop products made from garbage and turn the world's trash into cash. Meet the *Garbage Mogul* team (pictured) as they work to develop a kite prototype made solely of Oreo wrappers. TV-PG.

My Friends Tigger & Pooh and a Musical Too (Disney Channel)

April 1 at 9:00 AM ET/PT

When Rabbit is named Mayor of the Hundred Acre Wood, the position goes to his head, and his rules -- including one that forbids Tigger from bouncing -- divide everyone, even the Hundred Acre Wood itself. The friends must choose sides, and no one has it worse than poor Piglet, whose house is split right down the middle. It isn't until everyone must join together to find a missing Buster that they learn the importance of being together. TV-Y.

Captain Planet Earth Day Marathon (Boomerang)

April 18 at 8:00 AM ET/PT

In celebration of Earth Day, Boomerang will air a 12-hour *Captain Planet* marathon that will feature the best Earth Day-themed episodes. The story of Captain Planet begins when the spirit of Earth awakens to find that humans are destroying the planet. Fearing for the future, she sends magic rings to five youngsters from around the world. When the Planetegers align their rings, power beams shoot from the rings to create Captain Planet. The environmental superhero is endowed with the powers of the Planetegers' rings to fight eco-villains of the globe. TV-Y7.

For more family-friendly programs, plus information on using parental controls to block out inappropriate content, go to ControlYourTV.org.

Cable on the Web

CIC presents a sampling of family-friendly websites

The Big Green Help (www.biggreenhelp.com)

This Nickelodeon website has a mission -- to help young people find simple, positive ways to help protect the Earth every day. The site features games, quizzes, a Q&A, a pledge for users to sign, message boards, and more.

Earth at Risk (www.history.com/states.do?parentId=earth)

Explore video, carbon footprint calculators, ideas for ways to help, timelines, and much more at this History site. Topics covered include species extinction, overpopulation, deforestation, global warming, air and water pollution, natural disasters, and Earth Day.

Note: PTA does not endorse any television programs or websites and is not responsible for the selections in this newsletter or the content in those selections. All programs and websites are selected independently according to criteria established by Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation. For information about these criteria, go to www.ciconline.org/parents. Some networks may not be available in your area. Check your local listings.

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