

Dear Parents,

As adults, we often marvel at the range of activities and opportunities for play offered by digital media, the amount of information available on the Internet, and the means by which people communicate with each other.

Adults, whether parents or those who work professionally with children and young people, cannot always keep track of it all. However, children need professional, sympathetic and creative support in their media socialization and to become competent users of media.

There are always offers, content, and activities in and around media that are unsuitable, illegal or even dangerous. Even adults do not have all the information at their disposal and may be unaware of some dangers.

Support is needed here to ensure that adults are competent and trustworthy contacts for children and young people when it comes to using media. The Netzwerk gegen Gewalt (Network Against Violence) offers this support on the issue of media literacy, and through network partners provides information, working materials and practical tips on dealing with digital media. Take advantage of this offer to prepare yourself for these issues. To ensure that children can grow up safe and free of violence, you are needed as a role model to prevent dangerous use.

You can find more information here:

[www.polizei-beratung.de](http://www.polizei-beratung.de)

[www.polizeifuerdich.de](http://www.polizeifuerdich.de)

[www.klicksafe.de](http://www.klicksafe.de)

[www.jugendschutz.net](http://www.jugendschutz.net)

[www.medienkompetenz.bildung.hessen.de](http://www.medienkompetenz.bildung.hessen.de)

Practical Guide to Media Literacy  
by the Hessen Ministry of  
Education and Cultural Affairs

[www.digitale-helden.de](http://www.digitale-helden.de)

[www.jugendschutz-frankfurt.de](http://www.jugendschutz-frankfurt.de)

[www.hke.hessen.de/hilfsangebote/eltern](http://www.hke.hessen.de/hilfsangebote/eltern)



Der Medienwegweiser  
[www.netzwerk-gegen-gewalt.hessen.de](http://www.netzwerk-gegen-gewalt.hessen.de)

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The Network against Violence is an initiative of the Hessen State Chancellery, the Hessen Ministry of Internal Affairs and Sport, the Hessen Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, the Hessen Ministry of Social Welfare and Integration, the Hessen Ministry of Justice and the State Crime Prevention Council.

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**NETZWERK  
GEGEN GEWALT**



## Media Literacy for Parents



## Not all content is allowed

Not everything seen, read and shared on smartphones is harmless fun. Content can be scary and is often even illegal and thus constitutes a criminal offence. These offences are vigorously prosecuted by the police and the public prosecutor's office. For all affected persons, this means that data carriers – and this includes smartphones – can be seized and evaluated. Subsequently, their destruction can be considered if criminal content is found. This decision is up to the courts. The costs of proceedings, in particular the costs of evaluating data carriers, may be borne by the perpetrators, i.e. **you** and **your children**.

Therefore, please talk to your children and inform them of the consequences of creating, possessing or distributing (sharing) prohibited content.

The police and public prosecutor's office then conduct extensive investigations based on findings in class chat groups that are relevant under criminal law, for example. These would be:

- **Possessing and distributing (=sending or sharing) child pornography or pornographic writings (§§ 184 ff StGB), including texts, images, and videos with sexual depictions, e.g. on students' smartphones.**
- **Dissemination of unconstitutional symbols (§ 86 ff StGB), e.g. swastika depictions, Hitler salute, etc.**
- **Dissemination of depictions glorifying violence (§ 131 StGB), e.g. videos with scenes of torture, execution, and murder.**
- **Making and distributing recordings of serious accidents with injured or deceased persons (§ 201 a StGB)**
- **Making, using or distributing images of other persons without their consent (§ 201 a StGB; § 22 KUG) (e.g. recordings during lessons).**

**Responsibility for content, especially in the case of underage children, lies with you as parents and guardians.**

The specified image and video material does not belong on smartphones or other digital devices, and especially not in children's hands. Particularly for the sake of victims, we ask that you – the parent or guardian – support the preventive and educational work of schools and police.



## Children, young people and the Internet

The Internet is growing ever more important. Almost nothing stands in the way of boundless access to information. Unfortunately, this also applies to content that can endanger the development of children and young people: cruel depictions of violence, pornography, right-wing extremist propaganda.

Children of preschool and elementary/primary school age in particular should therefore never surf the Internet alone, and should only do so in protected areas. For this purpose, there are suitable children's websites offering a playful and safe introduction to the Internet, e.g. the **Internet-ABC**. For older children and teenagers, parents can also use technical youth protection systems (filters) to provide a certain level of protection against Internet hazards. However, filter software does not guarantee complete protection by any means. Parents' personal involvement with their children's use of the Internet is and remains a priority. Filtering software is merely a supplement.

If you come across content on the Internet that is harmful to minors, you can report it to the e-mail address **hotline@jugendschutz.net**. This is where violations of youth protection law are registered and pursued.

## Media tips for everyday family life

To understand how a smartphone works and learn how to protect themselves, children and young people need time and careful guidance from their parents.

The following links provide practical tips and information on how to get your child started with responsible use of media.

The initiative "SCHAU HIN! Was Dein Kind mit Medien macht"

("LOOK at what your child is doing with media!") helps families with media education.

<https://www.schau-hin.info/>

The podcast in the "Schau hin" media library offers helpful tips from experts in the digital world to help parents better understand their children's smartphone world.

<https://www.schau-hin.info/mediathek>

You can find more tips on "Safe surfing for kids" at the links below:

<https://www.bsi-fuer-buerger.de/BSIFB/DE/Service/Aktuell/Informationen/Artikel/tipps-fuer-eltern-sicher-digital-lernen.html>

<https://www.klicksafe.de/service/aktuelles/news/detail/technische-einstellungen-fuer-smartphone-und-tablet-neues-infoblatt-fuer-eltern/>

Information updates from Frankfurt am Main police headquarters and City of Frankfurt youth protection services

<http://jugendschutz-frankfurt.de/>

