Filtering 101

Filtering must happen on an internal level (a child's value system and internet training) AND an external level (filters, controls, etc.) **The most important filter is a child's internal filter.** Along with having frequent, open discussions about the internet and your family's values, we recommend the book **"Good Pictures, Bad Pictures"** (by Kristen A Jenson and Gail Poyner) which teaches a child the difference between their "thinking brain" and their "feeling brain."

As far as external controls, here are a few highly rated options for making your devices safer:

1) Install a filter on each device

K9 Web Protection from *BlueCoat*. This is a great option for those who are not technical. It is easy to install and configure, and works very well. k9webprotection.com   Price: Free
NetAngel A cloud-based solution that protects all devices This filter uses blacklists as well as true content filtering. A text message is sent to a parent or spouse whenever a site is blocked in realtime. netangel.com
Price: Free for one device or computer.

Also check out: BrowseControl, FamilyShield, Norton Online Family (many more online!)

2) Or…add a parental control device to your current Wi-Fi router

Circle with Disney automatically detects wireless devices in your home (even visitors'). You can set time limits for each user profile per day and for specific apps or categories (like social media). You can set bedtime hours, schedule "OffTime" hours, reward your kids with extra online time, customize which apps your children can access, "pause" the internet, and check a thorough history of how much time family members spend online and where they spend it. Add "Circle Go" and the settings will apply no matter where your kids are or what network they are using.
Price**:** $99; ($9.95/month if you add Circle Go)
KoalaSafe is another device that plugs into your router and sets up user profiles for each child (or general profiles like "Little Kids" or "Teens" and assign devices to them). KoalaSafe allows you to set a schedule for internet access, block or approve websites and apps, and add or turn off internet usage. Also comes with a Parent Mode option, so if you share a device with a child, you can easily turn the restrictions off and back on again as needed. Does not offer daily time limits.
Price: $99

Also check out: Qustodio, Net Nanny (many more online!)

3) Or…replace your router with one that has parental controls installed

Luma uses multiple routers (they recommend using three in a typical house) to provide strong Wi-Fi coverage for your whole house. You can set up user profiles and add devices to each one. Luma lets you set a daily time limit for each user, add bedtime hours, and pause the internet. You can set each profile to one of five rating levels (G, PG, PG-13, R, and Unrestricted) but cannot customize websites or categories to block. Can handle more than 60 devices.
Price: $149 for one; $299 for two; $399 for three routers.

Torch does not offer a daily time limit feature, but you can set up a schedule of approved usage hours to limit when your kids. You can customize filter settings, block specific websites, or even pause the internet. All of the devices that connect to the Wi-Fi in your home must be assigned to a profile in order to connect to the internet, which means your kids can't sneak in a friend's device to get around restrictions. No limit to the number of profiles and devices. Other than the price, Torch is a good option for combining a high-speed router with parental controls for your entire Wi-Fi network. Price: $249.99 plus $9.99 per month, can cancel anytime

Also check out: Clean Router, Orbi (has Circle w/ Disney installed on it) (more online!)

4) Or…install an <u>app</u> that controls the devices in your home (use with a filtering option above)

OurPact is an app that allows you to manage the devices in your home. Block apps, manage screen time with custom schedules, block texting for any length of time, and find your family with the "family locator."
Price: $1.99-$6.99/month

TeenSafe is an app that allows you to view sent, received and deleted texts, call logs of sent and received phone calls, device location and location history, web browsing history, bookmarks and contacts. Price: $15/month for multiple devices

Also check out: Screen Time, Parent Kit, Time Away (more online!)

5) Or…sign up for a DNS service (recommended to be used only in conjunction with one of the above options).

SafeDNS Safe@Home protects your home wireless network from online threats (like malware, phishing, and cyberattacks) while also providing basic parental control options (though monitoring is not broken down by device). You can schedule internet hours and even block online advertising. It doesn't let you filter HTTPS or proxy websites, so if you have tech-savvy teens you may need to find an additional solution. Price: $19.95/year

OpenDNS you can set a general filtering level (low, medium, or high) for your network, where the "low" setting blocks only adult content. Depending on which program you choose, it provides an activity log of all online activity for two weeks to one year (although it doesn't distinguish between devices). Home VIP also has a whitelist-only mode that prevents access to any websites but those you've specifically approved. Price: Free or $19.95/year for Home VIP

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Are each of your computers/devices protected by a filtered by one of these options? Turn this slip in for 3 tickets!

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____