

GYDSI Device Setup Checklist



A quick start guide for families to set up phones, tablets, laptops, and game consoles with safety and privacy in mind.

1. Core Safety Settings

- Turn on a strong device passcode or biometrics (Face ID, fingerprint, or PIN).
 - Enable automatic security and operating system updates.
 - Set auto lock or screen timeout to a short interval (2 to 5 minutes).
 - Confirm backups are enabled and secure (iCloud, Google, or encrypted local backup).
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2. Privacy Protections

- Review app permissions for camera, microphone, location, photos, and contacts, and disable anything unnecessary.
 - Turn off ad tracking and cross app tracking in the Settings menu.
 - Limit location sharing to “While Using App” or turn it off for nonessential apps.
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3. Safe Browsing and Content Filters

- Turn on SafeSearch in browsers and YouTube.
 - Enable parental or family safety controls (Screen Time, Family Link, or similar tools).
 - Use a family friendly DNS or router filter to block harmful sites where possible.
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4. Communication and Social Safety

- Set profiles to private wherever possible (Friends Only or Private Account).
 - Disable location sharing inside social apps and games.
 - Review who can message, friend, or follow your child, and block unknown requests.
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5. Apps, Games, and Downloads

- Remove apps and games your family does not recognize, use, or trust.
 - Set age-appropriate ratings for app and game downloads.
 - Check in app chat and purchase settings and limit or disable them as needed.
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6. Family Agreements and Check Ins

- Create or update a simple family tech agreement.
- Designate device free times or zones such as meals, bedtime, and family events.
- Talk about what to do if something online feels unsafe, confusing, or scary, and who to tell first.