



Backgrounder

Online social networking has become a common part of our everyday lives — our kids' lives too. Many parents, including those familiar with social networking and those new to finding friends online, can be unaware that their kids are experimenting on platforms like Facebook and Twitter, which are not age appropriate.

ScuttlePad's approach comes from the belief that guided communication helps kids learn how to benefit from and safely interact with an online community. Just as we teach kids how to cross the street safely, we must also help them understand how social networks work and how to be safe in them. Unlike networks for adults, at ScuttlePad kids can't get into trouble by sharing too much or inappropriate information, or get approached by adult strangers.

ScuttlePad is a safe place for 6-11 year olds to interact online and connect with their friends. With ScuttlePad, children have fun updating their status and making comments by choosing and combining words to build sentences, all while learning online safety fundamentals.

How It Works

ScuttlePad lets kids build a simple profile, connect with friends, and share news from their daily lives. Getting started with ScuttlePad is simple:

1. Parents log their children on to www.scuttlepad.com to create a profile with a unique user name and a password.
2. An email is sent to the parent's email address with a link to activate the ScuttlePad account.
3. After a brief tutorial, kids can start networking, adding their friends as contacts. Once a friend request is accepted, kids can start crafting status updates, commenting on friends' updates and pictures, as well as sending messages.

Kids can share their home state or town if they choose, and they're allowed to upload pictures, which must be approved by ScuttlePad. Updates are created by clicking through predefined word lists to create a sentence. Sometimes, if the child isn't using the proper sentence structure the updates will be a little silly, but never socially inappropriate or revealing.

ScuttlePad Features

ScuttlePad is embraced by parents and teachers as an educational tool for the way it expands kids' vocabulary and helps them learn sentence structure, while protecting their privacy. It's fun for older users who are able learn the concept of making a profile, and social networking responsibility in a format that isn't confused by games or puzzles. Online social networks are attractive to children, and ScuttlePad offers the proper safeguards for kids.

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