



Media and Technology

Safety Tipsheet

Category: Music

What You Need to Know

Benefits

- Music is a powerful communicator and an excellent channel of self-expression.
- Music concerts can be great family fun. From free summer concerts to treating your children to a performance from their favorite group for a special occasion, music concerts can bridge the generation gap, and expose everyone to something new and exciting.
- Learning how to play an instrument, even in early childhood, can strengthen student problem-solving and critical thinking skills, teach discipline and problem solving, and provide another outlet for your child's creativity.

Risks

- Music piracy is not just unethical; it's illegal. The recording industry is becoming increasingly tough on enforcing copyright regulations and prosecuting by law those involved in sharing music, downloading songs for free or even purchasing an illegally copied CD.

Ratings

In 1985, National PTA worked with the Recording Industry Association of America created the Parental Advisory Label to warn of a CD's explicit content. In most cases, artists offer edited/clean versions.

What You Can Do

- Share music with your child. Trade favorite CDs with your child, and be aware of what you are listening to. Try to figure out why your children enjoy the music they listen to; don't be afraid to ask them if you simply don't understand. Likewise, talk to your children about the music that you like and the songs that hold important memories for you.
- Buy music legally. Create a family account with an online music retailer and use songs to reward good behavior and grades. Avoid obtaining music from file sharing sites that make it easy to consume pirated music.
- Establish a Media Use Contract with each child in your family. It is important that you have a conversation with each child to set rules and limits that are appropriate for him or her. Once the contracts have been signed, post them in a prominent place in your home as a reminder.

Visit these online resources for in-depth information:

- Parent Teacher Association, www.pta.org
- Common Sense Media, www.commonsensemedia.org/music-reviews
- Recording Industry Association of America, www.riaa.org/toolsforparents.php

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