



Guidelines for creating digital or internet content for children under 13.

In an effort to support you and your creation of digital content, we've created this outline which acknowledges related state and federal guidelines for communications.

There are numerous organizations whose primary function is to protect children who are accessing content on the internet. Some are connected to federal agencies like the Children's Online Privacy and Protection Act (COPPA) from the Federal Trade Commission and some are independent organizations like the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. They all share the same concern to respect and protect children, especially kids 13 and under and to advise adults about appropriate ways to communicate with young people.

Here are some quick tips to keep in mind as you develop and create content for COMPAS Home Studio.

- 1) As you present your creative activity video(s) be mindful that some younger kids may need help doing their project so suggest that they ask for help from their parent or guardian.
- 2) It is best to not direct them to do online searches or to direct them to specific websites.
 - a. If you do need to incorporate a specific website, please tell COMPAS which sites you are suggesting so that we can review and approve them.
 - b. Make sure that you are directing the parent or guardian to do this search.
 - c. Kids cannot be asked to log on, or to provide any personal information to access any website.
- 3) Since you all have extensive experience in teaching children of all ages/grades the one thing to remember is that any video could be viewed by younger children so language and descriptions should be simple and appropriate for a younger audience under 13.
- 4) If you direct your audience in a step that might require a higher level of manual dexterity, pause and suggest that if they need help they ask their parent or guardian to join them in the activity or have them help with the specific step.
- 5) If you are proposing an activity or dance, remind them to get their parent or guardian's help to find a nice flat open space to move around in. If they are creating an object that might encourage throwing or tossing, remind them to be mindful of their surroundings and to not leave their creation in a place their younger siblings could access. We want to make sure that everyone is kept safe in their home environments.

These tips may seem obvious, but providing creative experiences to younger children in their home through the internet does have additional considerations beyond what is typical in the classroom and we just wanted to share with you what we know/have found out.