

Your Child's Passwords

How to talk to your child about passwords and why you need them.



Parent Tip

Most parents don't allow a lock on their child's door for safety reasons. What happens on their phone carries even more risk. Parenting in today's world means making account and device passwords a condition for allowing a device.

Your child should know that their safety is your responsibility. For their protection, BrightCanary provides summaries of their activities. You only need to go deeper into their messages if something concerning comes up. This kind of monitoring builds trust and can earn them greater independence.

2 Their Google or YouTube password

You'll need your child's Google login to monitor their search and YouTube activity with BrightCanary. If you set up a family Google account, check your password manager or recovery email first — you may already have it.

If your child set up their own account, this is a natural opening for a conversation about why you need their passwords.

3 Their iCloud password

This one trips up the most parents. Many of us set up our child's Apple ID years ago and haven't logged in since. But once you connect your child's iCloud account on BrightCanary, you'll have a safety net over all of their text messages. Here are your three options:

Ask your child directly. This conversation is often easier than parents expect — especially when you frame it as a partnership, not surveillance.

Check your password manager. If you created the account, the password may be saved in iCloud Keychain, your browser, or your recovery email.

Reset it through Apple. If you're the family organizer or originally set up the account, you can reset it through Apple's account recovery flow.

1 Their phone lock screen passcode

This is the most basic layer of access and the easiest to overlook. If you don't have it, just ask.

Try framing it as a household rule: *"Anyone under 18 in this house doesn't have a private passcode." It lands better than a one-time demand.*