

School kids will soon have more free time on their hands. They'll likely spend a good bit of it on their smartphones. Parents might think by adding parental supervision and limits will prevent their children from accessing some apps for a length of time. But...kids know how to get around those limits. I'm looking at a few things every kid knows while parents have no clue.

TRT 133
STD OUT

SUPER

0-8 Jamey Tucker/whatthetech.tv

ON-CAMERA TEASE

School's almost out and kids will soon have more time on their hands and they'll spend a lot of it on their phones. I'm Jamey Tucker coming up with a story parents need to see. Some tricks kids use to get past screen limits.

ANCHOR INTRO

ONLY A FEW WEEKS LEFT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WHICH MEANS KIDS WILL SOON HAVE A LOT MORE TIME ON THEIR HANDS.

YOU CAN BET THEY'LL BE SPENDING MORE TIME ON THEIR SMARTPHONES, EVEN IF PARENTS SET SCREEN LIMITS. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER HAS A STORY YOUR KIDS DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE.

PACKAGE SCRIPT

Listen parents, if you think screen limits will keep your kids off of apps and websites you don't approve of, you're just playing into their little game.

TikTok is filled with how-to videos from kids who've figured out how to get past screen limits.

Many parents will use screen limits to restrict TikTok after a certain amount of time. What parents don't know is that kids can just open TikTok in a smartphone browser. They don't need the app.

And if they open the website in incognito mode, it won't limit the time they spend on websites and you won't be able to see what they've been doing.

Kids hope you don't know this part, parents can lock down the phone to allow them to visit only websites they approve.

In screen time settings, tap content and privacy restrictions. Set a passcode to allow changes. Then, select content restrictions where you can block explicit music, books, and age appropriate apps. To lock it down tighter, you can allow only certain websites to be accessed. By doing this, it will prevent visiting any other websites, even in incognito mode.

The other option many parents are choosing, especially with younger children, is a flip phone like this. If you have a young child who has an iPhone, iPad, or Android device they can use without supervision, they will find a way to go places you don't want them to go.

That's What the Tech, I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

AND PARENTS, IF A CHILD USES 'INCOGNITO' OR 'PRIVATE MODE', THEY CAN DELETE THEIR BROWSING HISTORY WHICH PREVENTS ANYONE, EVEN THE PARENTS ON THE SAME ACCOUNT, FROM SEEING WHAT WEBSITES THEY VISITED.

WEB STORY

In the age of social media and constant connectivity, parents are often concerned about managing their children's screen time and online activities. With teenagers and pre-teens becoming increasingly tech-savvy, they sometimes find clever ways to bypass smartphone restrictions, sharing tips and tricks on platforms like TikTok. From hiding apps on the home screen to disguising them to evade parental oversight, the digital cat-and-mouse game continues.

Many parents rely on tools like **Screen Time** on iPhones to set boundaries for app usage. For example, if parents decide that an hour of Snapchat is enough for a day, they can enforce this limit through the Screen Time settings. Once the allotted time expires, the app remains locked until a parent enters the passcode to grant more time. This feature can be applied to any app, providing a level of control over how long children spend on specific applications.

However, a significant oversight occurs with web-based access to popular apps like TikTok, YouTube, or Instagram. While parents can set time limits for these websites, these restrictions do not apply when children use **incognito or private browsing modes**. In these modes, users can visit websites without the time being counted against the Screen Time limits. This loophole means that, despite parental controls, children can spend unrestricted time on these sites without leaving a trace in their browsing history.

For parents facing difficulties with their children visiting certain websites, more stringent measures are available. Within the Screen Time settings, parents can tap on **content and privacy restrictions** and create a passcode to allow changes. Then, by selecting **content restrictions**, they can block explicit content and set age-appropriate limits. To further restrict web content, parents can block adult websites or even specify which websites are allowed, preventing access to any others—even in incognito mode.

Despite these options, some limitations persist. For instance, it's not possible to block incognito or private mode on iPhones directly. Android devices offer more flexibility in this regard, especially if the child's phone is supervised with **Family Link**.

Parents can also turn to third-party apps that monitor a child's phone usage and block access to certain apps and websites. [These services typically come with a monthly fee of around \\$15¹²](#).

Another approach gaining popularity is the use of **flip phones** for young children. These devices, readily available from cellular providers, are cost-effective and limit functionality to calls and texts. [This option ensures parents can stay in touch with their children and provide them with a means of communication in emergencies, without the distractions and risks associated with smartphones³⁴⁵⁶](#).

Navigating the complexities of digital parenting requires a combination of using built-in features, understanding the limitations of these tools, considering third-party solutions, and sometimes opting for simpler technology. As the digital landscape evolves, so too must the strategies parents employ to ensure their children's safety and well-being online.