Social Media Platforms—
5 things to consider before your kids join up:

1. **PURPOSE:** Do your homework. Google the platform and make sure you know what it is about and the types of things that may be shared there. What are the benefits of joining? Don't join if you don't feel comfortable.
   tip for parents: join up and see what it is about for yourself.

2. **AGE LIMITS:** Is there a minimum age limit? If so, it is there for a reason. Don't encourage your children to lie. Find a suitable alternative. Consider your child's maturity level even if they are old enough to join.
   When joining open (all age) sites, please consider point 1.

3. **PRIVACY:** Make sure there are suitable privacy settings that allow you control over what you share.
   Parents - you should set these tight as your children learn.
   READ the privacy policy of the site **before** you join.

4. **SHARING:** What kinds of things are being shared on the site?. How easy is it for others to share your child's information?

5. **PROTECT YOUR FAMILY:** Teach your kids not to share personal information with people they don't actually know. That "friend" online may not be who they say they are. Learn how to report inappropriate behaviour or harassment online.

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