



Facebook For Parents: To Friend or Not to Friend?

Boasting hundreds of **friends on Facebook** can feel pretty fab, but how high should the number go—and are you really friends with *all* of them? Frankly, there's such a thing as 'over friending.' Plus, accepting requests from people you don't actually know or even like can lead to message gossip and comment wars that could spiral out of control. To the rescue: April Masini, relationship and etiquette expert and the founder of AskApril.com.

The neighbors

"This one's a 'yes'—they're likely good friends, and you may come to rely on them when someone's sick, has an accident, or during a weather emergency," explains Masini. But there's also the potential for hurt feelings here. You might see pictures of a backyard pig roast or **Mad Men-themed** cocktail party and realize that almost the entire block was invited—except you and your husband...

Moms from school

Sure, but not the whole class. If you're getting to know a few of the ladies, it's fine to friend them, but you won't be besties with everyone. Just be sure to keep your messages social or about school biz only (skip posts about work). Pestering people with real estate ventures or the **Pilates classes** you teach is a turn off.

An ex-boyfriend

Do you really care that he's a VP in sales and marketing in Akron? Or are you cyber spying to see what his kids look like and whether his wife is overweight? "Do not friend this guy! In fact, un-friend him when you break-up and leave it this way," urges Masini. You'll end up stalking him and competing without even realizing it if he's your friend on Facebook.

Your boss

Keep the bulk of your contact with your boss in the office—and out of your social life. "This relationship should be sacred, so don't friend your boss," says Masini. You don't want this person to catch a glimpse of anything you or your friends post that could be even remotely lurid or inappropriate.

By Jennifer Kelly Geddes

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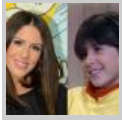


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