

Online Safety for Young Children

The digital world we live in is amazing, with pictures, music and information available at the click of a button, touch of a screen or just by asking an enabled device such as Alexa. We should embrace this resource, but keep in mind the potential dangers. If we give a child a bike to ride, we provide a helmet for protection and encourage them to cycle in safe places, with supervision. With digital technology we can use filters, passwords and parental controls for protection; allow access to safe, age-appropriate spaces online and sit with our children as they learn to navigate the online world, just as we do in the real world. **Please remember:**

- * Children should be supervised when online or using technology that can access the Internet.
- * Think about what pieces of technology you are allowing your child to play with. You may have put parental controls on their own devices, but what happens if you give them your 'phone to play with? Your device is unlikely to have the same filters and controls on it.
- * Can they see or access an older sibling's devices? Do these have parental controls? Some of the games an older sibling might play may not be suitable for a 3 or 4 year old to watch.
- * Talk to your child about what they have seen or are doing online.
- * Encourage your child to tell you if they see or hear something that makes them scared, worried or upset. Would you know where to report something inappropriate?
- * Use online technology together. If your child asks you a question, look up the answer together, this way you can show them how to search safely.

There are some good, short animations about some of the dangers of online safety (cyber bullying, inappropriate images and talking to strangers online).

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin/>

For information about using parental controls visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

There is lots more advice available on the following websites:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#advice>

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>