

What issues might affect young children?



Cyberbullying



Online Grooming



Online Reputation



Inappropriate Content



Online Pornography



Falconhurst School

Online Safety Guide for Families

Early use of digital technology has been shown to improve language skills and promote children's social development and creativity. But it's not without risks for young children, who may come across inappropriate content or begin to copy what older children do online.

IF IN DOUBT

CHECK IT OUT

www.internetmatters.org

www.commonsense.org

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.childnet.com



Internet safety checklist for young children

Agree boundaries

Be clear what your child can and can't do online – where they can use the Internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about what they do and what sites they like to visit. If they're happy to, ask them to show you. Talk to them about being a good friend online.

Stay involved

Encourage them to use their tech devices in a communal area like the lounge or kitchen so you can keep an eye on how they're using the internet and also share in their enjoyment.

Put yourself in control

Install [parental controls](#) on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. Set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that younger children can't access them by accident. Visit <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc> for really helpful tips and advice about how to stay in control of your child's experiences online.

Use airplane mode

Use airplane mode on your devices when your child is using them so they can't make any unapproved purchases or interact with anyone online without your knowledge.

Talk to siblings

It's also a good idea to talk to any older children about what they're doing online and what they show to younger children. Encourage them to be responsible and help keep their younger siblings safe.

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as [Swiggle](#) or [Kids-search](#). You can save time by adding these to your 'Favourites'. Safe search settings can also be activated on [Google](#) and other search engines, as well as [YouTube](#).

Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. For example, the minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram. Always refer to the PEGI ratings for games and advisory ratings for apps as these will provide you with the reassurances and information that you need. You wouldn't let your child watch an 18 rated movie at the cinema so would you let them play an 18 rated game?