

12 DAYS OF ONLINE SAFETY

Traci Good @ The Online Safety Hub



On the first day of Christmas, Online Safety gave to me;

PARENTAL CONTROLS - Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content and apps, control purchases and manage how long your child spends online. For more info on how to set up parental controls visit [https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/onlinOnline Safety/parental-controls/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/onlinOnline%20Safety/parental-controls/)

On the second day of Christmas, Online Safety gave to me;

PEGI RATINGS FOR GAMES - Age ratings for games are extremely important for ensuring your child isn't exposed to violence, sex and drug use during gameplay. By making sure your child is either on or below the age rating given, you are only giving them access to appropriate content.

On the third day of Christmas, Online Safety gave to me;

DEVICE CHECKING - Along with using Parental Controls, regularly checking your child's device for inappropriate Google searches, adverts and messages between friends, you can sleep easy knowing your child is using the internet wisely.

On the fourth day of Christmas, Online Safety gave to me;

NO TECH AT BEDTIME - Using Tech devices before bed will delay your body's internal clock and it will be more difficult to fall asleep.

On the fifth day of Christmas, Online Safety gave to me;

BEHAVIOUR GROUND RULES - if your child starts acting differently, is more grumpy or gets angry when they aren't allowed their devices, this is a good time to STOP, REMOVE the device, and work with them to find out the cause of the changes.



**On the sixth day of Christmas, Online
Safety gave to me;**

HELP AND ADVICE - Reaching out to a professional for help or doing some research on your own can help give you a better understanding of what you can do to be the best teacher for your child. There's tons of information on <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> about apps, games and social media.

**On the seventh day of Christmas, Online
Safety gave to me;**

LOOT BOX AWARENESS - Loot boxes are like treasure chests for in-game improvements. Often containing better (and rarer) armour, weapons and accessories. Most loot boxes cost anywhere from £1.50 to £100! More information can be found on <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/what-are-loot-boxes>

**On the eighth day of Christmas, Online
Safety gave to me;**

IN-APP PURCHASES – Many games and apps have an option to buy in-game coins, game expansions, character upgrades (and so much more!) to make your game play more fun and interesting, but if your child is using in-app purchases, you could find that they spent £100+ on the app without realising what they are doing. You can turn off in-app purchases using your parental controls.

**On the ninth day of Christmas, Online
Safety gave to me;**

OVERSHARING ONLINE - at Christmas, many children get overexcited, and want to let all their friends know exactly what they've been given, and what they plan on doing with it. Now, this is good and fine... as long as their posts aren't PUBLIC. You need to double check that your child's social media profiles are locked down, so only their friends can see. You wouldn't announce that you keep your car keys right next to an unlocked front door, and you wouldn't want your child to announce that they have a shiny new iPhone to dozens of strangers online.

**On the tenth day of Christmas, Online
Safety gave to me....**

Online Reputations - Many parents nowadays post their baby's scan picture and photos of their kids. Children themselves are starting to share personal information from a young age, and by the time they are in high-school, they will have a pretty long history behind them, which will affect their reputation both online and in school. It is important that you keep a track of the posts, to find out how best to do this, visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-reputation/learn-about-it/>

**On the eleventh day of Christmas, Online
Safety gave to me;**

HAPPY MEMORIES! - As long as your children are being safe and sensible, sharing a few photos from Christmas with the family is a lovely thing to do. With FaceBook having a time-capsule showing you what you posted on that day in different years, it can be lovely to look back each year at Christmasses past!

**On the twelfth day of Christmas, Online
Safety gave to me;**

THE PASS TO BE IMPERFECT - Bringing up kids can be very difficult, and you often may feel lost, especially in the age of the internet. It's important to remember that things might go wrong, and if they do, that is what we (as Online Safety professionals) are here for! There's very little we haven't seen before, and no situation is too difficult to work out. Set your ground rules, keep a close eye, but if something goes wrong - Don't panic!



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www.onlinesafetyhub.co.uk