



Hector's World Safety Button

The Hector's World Safety Button is a child-activated safety tool which children can use if something on-screen upsets or worries them.

The Hector's World Safety Button is a simple executable file which you can download free from the 'thinkuknow' website listed on the front of this leaflet.

The file installs a swimming Hector's World character in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. A child can just click on Hector (or one of his friends) who then covers the screen with a beautiful underwater scene and gives the child a positive written message for clicking on the character, while encouraging them to get adult help.

These buttons install and uninstall very easily. Which version you use depends your operating system and the capacity of your computer. All Hector's World Safety Buttons are suitable for networked and stand alone computers



How to install the Safety Button

- Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7
- Click on 'Top Tips' down the left hand side of the page
- Click on the green link to '**Hector's World Safety Button**'
- Follow the on screen instructions



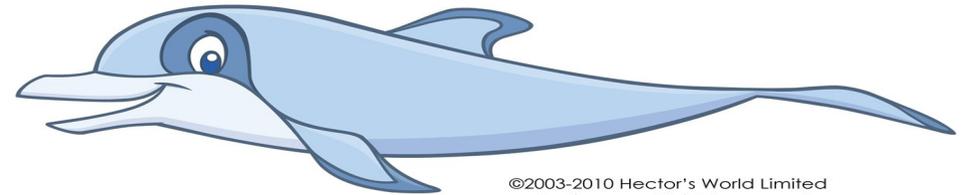
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STAYING SAFE IN CYBER SPACE

YOU CAN USE THE COMPUTER FOR LOTS OF FUN THINGS – ON AND OFF THE INTERNET

IN THIS LEAFLET WE WILL GIVE YOU SOME HELPFUL HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE WHEN USING THE COMPUTER



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There are numerous information giving websites about protecting yourself and your family when using the computer but one particularly good one we use in school that has been set up in conjunction with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) is:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7



Once on the site click on '**Hectors World**' or '**Lee and Kim**' where there are cartoons and games for children to play which teaches them how to use the computer safely.



Getting started

Deciding when your child should go online for the first time really is best determined by you, the parent/carer, and be based on the values and activities of your family. If the whole family is very 'connected' it is natural for your young child to be curious.

With a child of infant age the earliest experiences on a computer at home are best with you at their side. Talking with them about the online world and doing activities with them can give them a great start.

The most important thing in a young child's life is their interaction with you. In maintaining a healthy balance of activities for your child, you can look at computer use as a component of total 'screentime', along with watching television, using game consoles and hand held games.



Setting up

Your child may start using the computer, gaming console or internet alongside their siblings or with you. How you set up and configure those devices can help establish a safe online learning and play environment for young children.

- Put the computer in the main family room. Technology use is then part of family interaction from the very beginning.
- Ensure that your computer security is up-to-date.
- Use the parental control systems that come free with some operating systems to set time limits or create a list of approved sites for your child.
- Consider using filtering or monitoring software. For young children, filtering can help prevent accidental access to unwanted material, but education is still crucial.
- Be aware of the online capability of new devices or services.



Trusted communication

A key strategy for keeping young children safe is to help them identify who they would talk with if something bothered or upset them. These trusted adults can help sort out a problem and advocate for the child if needed.

This is a good strategy for the online environment, too. Discuss with your child who they can talk to if something has bothered them when they are online. It is also important they understand they will not be blamed for the problem and the technology won't be taken away if they raise a concern.

The first step is to deal with the immediate problem and the second step is to offer the education and skills, and possibly employ technology which can help prevent a reoccurrence.



Virtual worlds

The use of social networking sites by young children has grown rapidly. Sometimes children under 10 are using sites that were designed for much older users.

Social networking is only one of the increasingly interactive activities designed for young children online, many with a commercial focus. There are a number of websites that are commercial brand sites, there are also social networking sites and interactive virtual worlds often dubbed 'virtual playgrounds'. The distinction between these three types of sites is rapidly blurring.

Some sites have clear policies on the minimum age for membership or registration. Sites designed for young children rely on parental supervision to ensure the site is appropriate. You can compare the safety information, policies and level of monitoring of interaction between people on the sites as you select one for your child.

