



## Internet safety

### Important Information for parents

How many times have you told your children not to talk to strangers? You would ever consider leaving your children in a park to talk to people you do not know. However do you know who they are actually talking to on line? Today's digital world is a scary place, where our children know more about cyberspace and the internet than adults do. Here are some simple tips to help you keep your children safe when going on line.

#### Internet safety checklist for young children

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.

##### 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.

##### 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.

### 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.

### 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. Although sites aimed at under-10s like [Moshi Monsters](#) and [Club Penguin](#) also have social networking elements.

Advice taken from <https://www.internetmatters.org>