



Online Safety Newsletter

May 2020

Online safety at home

As children are learning from home and perhaps spending more time online, we thought we'd share some of our top tips to help keep them safe:

Check your broadband and on any devices your child

Use technology in 'family areas' where you can keep an eye on them; online and who they are online with.

Take plenty of breaks from screen time.

Find out what your child is doing online, what sites and apps they are using and what they are playing. Find out more about each one so you can ensure appropriate safety and privacy controls are in place.

Monitor your child's learning and what they are doing online. Ensure they can come to you if they need help or if they have any concerns.

Remind them that the rules online are the same as when they are offline. Encourage them to be courteous to others. Impress upon them that this is an unusual time for everyone and that appropriate behavior is important for their learning experience.

Update

Netflix have enhanced their parental controls, for example you can set a maturity level for each profile or restrict titles for each profile. Learn how to set up the parental controls here: <https://help.netflix.com/en/node/264>

Live streaming Introduction

What is live streaming?

Live streaming is when somebody broadcasts live (real time) video through an app or website. For example, users can live stream on Instagram, Twitch or Facebook. Children also post prerecorded videos and share them through apps such as YouTube or share them to friends via apps such as WhatsApp. Whilst live streaming, other users can comment, react and chat. Most of these apps are for those aged over 13+.

Risks

- If your child has a public profile then potentially people they don't know will be watching their videos, commenting and chatting with them.
- Whilst using these apps/sites, your child could view inappropriate content.
- Your child may share personal information.
- Videos can be recorded or screenshots taken so even if you subsequently delete the video then somebody may still have a copy of it to share.

Nosy Crow have published a free digital book illustrated by Axel Scheffler for primary children about the Coronavirus. Available here:

<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>

Caribu: video calling

This is a family video-calling app which includes a library of children's books and activities (suited to younger children) that you can read and complete together through the app. This is currently free until 24th May 2020.

More information available here:
<https://caribu.com/>

- You child could be subjected to cyberbullying.
- Your child may participate in online challenges which can sometimes be risky.

How can I help keep my child safe?

Use apps/websites together so you can work out how the privacy settings work and how to report or block other users when necessary. Ensure your child understands that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Talk to your child about how to deal with peer pressure and how they shouldn't share or participate in anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Further links

The following three articles will provide you with further information and guidance on how to keep your child safe:

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parents-guide-to-live-streaming-and-vlogging/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>

Set up
appropriate
privacy
settings

Don't share
personal
info

Have
regular
chats with
your child

Learn how
to use the
reporting
functions

more of at the moment. This helpful article from Internet Matters outlines how to use some of the more popular platforms as well as some tips on how to use them safely including setting boundaries on when and where children can use these apps to chat with others.

The full article is available here:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2020/04/09/how-to-use-video-chat-platforms-to-group-chat-with-family-and-friends/>

