

Keeping Young Children Safe Online



Children love using technology and are learning to navigate websites, online games and consoles, and touch screen technology like tablets and smartphones from a younger and younger age.

There are real advantages in making sure that children are supported in their internet use right from the start.

Where do I start?

Use the internet together

Take time to explore the games and services that your children are using, or want to use, and look out for any safety features that may be available. This will give you a better understanding of the different ways that children are engaging with technology and help you to feel more confident.



Should I set any rules? **Yes!**

It's a good idea to agree the rules from the outset, so that you and your children are aware of their boundaries. Include time spent online, sites that can be visited, and behaviour expected; remember, what's right and wrong offline is also right and wrong online.



How can I supervise my child?

Place your computer or laptop in a busy part of the house e.g. the living room or kitchen

Portable devices, for example smartphones, iPod Touch, games consoles and tablets may allow you to ensure your children are using them where you can see them and your children can still be supervised.

How much time is too much time?

Ensure a balance, so that the use of technology does not stop your child doing other things

Manage the time online by agreeing time limits or using time limiting tools, designating weekly times to use the internet together, or removing portable devices from your child's bedroom at night to avoid tiredness.



Are there tools to help?

There are free parental controls available

These help you set safer boundaries for your children, but you will usually be required to set them up. Your internet service provider (such as BT or TalkTalk) will provide free filters to help block age inappropriate content for children, and on the UK Safer Internet Centre website you can watch video tutorials that show you how to find and set these up. All mobile phone operators (such as O2 or Vodafone) also provide parental controls for free.

Filtering options can be found within websites and services themselves, for example on YouTube or 'safe search' settings can be applied to search engines such as Google or Bing. There are even some search services designed for children (such as Yahoo! Kids). Parental controls can be password protected, so it's advisable to choose a strong password and not share it.

Parental controls and filters are a great help, but not a solution, and work best in combination with parental supervision and engagement, to help your children understand how to stay safe online.

Bookmarking sites or creating a 'favourites' list is a simple way to help your children find the content they want without having to search the internet for it.

You can also disable 'in-app' purchasing on a number of devices within the settings to stop children running up huge bills.

What advice can I give my child?

Discuss with your child the importance of telling an adult immediately if someone, or something, upsets them online.

Make sure that your children know that they can come and talk to you (without necessarily getting into trouble) if they see anything that worries them on the internet.

It is also important whilst beginning to explore the internet that your child realises that other internet users may not be who they say they are and that 'friends' made online are still strangers, so personal information should be kept safe, including their name, address, phone numbers and passwords etc. Encourage the use of screen names and nicknames where possible.

What games are OK for my child to play?

It is important that the games your children play are the correct age rating.

Some games are for adults or older audiences and contain images and language that are not suitable for children.

Many games allow children to play with other internet users and may have chat features enabled. Some games provide a "safe chat mode" where simple predetermined phrases can be used.

Reading online reviews of games can be a really useful way to hear other parents' experiences and feedback, and highlight potential safety issues like whether 'in-app' adverts are present, and whether the adverts displayed are suitable for the audience for which the app is intended.

Osborne Nursery School has an internet use policy which all staff and volunteers follow.

- The setting internet access is designed expressly for our children and includes filtering appropriate to the age of children.
- Children will use the internet with the direct support and supervision of staff.
- Internet access will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities.
- Staff will guide children in on-line activities that will support learning outcomes planned for their age and maturity.
- Staff will check that the sites pre-selected for pupil use are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils

Some of the apps that your child may use on the ipads at nursery are:

CBeebies playtime

Justin's World

- Goldilocks & The Three Bears
- Lettersounds

Hip Hop Hen

- Abc songs
- Abc tracing
- Abc jigsaw

Eurotalk

- Maths age 3-5

If things go wrong

If you are suspicious about the behaviour of others online, reports can be made to [CEOP](http://www.ceop.police.uk) at

www.ceop.police.uk

Inappropriate media content, online and offline can be reported via

[Parentport](http://www.parentport.org.uk) at

www.parentport.org.uk

Criminal content online can also be reported to the [IWF](http://www.iwf.org.uk) at www.iwf.org.uk