



In response to our online safety survey, this newsletter focuses on the setting up of devices and the latest internet trends.

If you have any devices at home that your children use and you would like some support in ensuring they are safe and age appropriate, then please pop in any time to see our ICT Technician, Mr Browning, or catch Mrs Dundas on the yard, who will organise a time for you to see Mr. Browning.



Get ready for the Christmas Holidays by staying up to date with the latest trends in social media and gaming.

We know that many of you will be buying new games and devices as presents, so please take the time to read about the safety concerns and precautions you can take, to keep your children safe online.



Click on the picture to read an article by National Online Safety on Cyberbullying. This is an issue being seen all across the world.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help set informed boundaries about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, tips and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of angst later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD
If your child is getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can get parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, take the time to set up Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode that is not your child's birth date or a word you or your child can't switch the protection off.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS
On Windows PCs and laptops, child phone or parental control software can be installed on the device. If you're booting up a new family device or a child's own device, set up using your own account. If you're using a child's account, set up using your own account. Then set up children with their own separate account details. Parents & Family Others users > Add Other User.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD
Once you've set up a Screen Time Passcode, you can set various safety settings. You could, for example, restrict app downloads with parental controls. You can also set restrictions on App Store purchases, app usage time limits for specific apps, and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID
Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Play Store accounts, with Family Link. This gives you a better understanding of your child's online behaviour. It also lets you manage their Google account, but lets parents see what apps they've downloaded and what time limits are set. An optional parental passcode is required that can't be changed for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK
The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone or tablet. In that app, you can set up a new child account using that Google account. Then follow on-screen instructions.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS
With parental controls for the PS4, you'll need a PlayStation Network account. This will need their own account which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up on the console, so it's best to want to do it before they sign in. For more on PlayStation.com and search "family controls" for instructions.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS
If you don't have a PC, that your child uses for a PC can be used to apply parental controls to their Xbox for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console access time (and restrict game play), restrict game play (and restrict game play), restrict game play (and restrict game play), restrict game play (and restrict game play).

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD
If you're planning to implement any form of restriction, it's best to discuss with your child a new device, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up on the console, so it's best to want to do it before they sign in. For more on PlayStation.com and search "family controls" for instructions.

STAY VIGILANT
It's important to remember that there are three methods to set up the PlayStation Network account. If you're using a parental control, it's best to discuss with your child a new device, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up on the console, so it's best to want to do it before they sign in. For more on PlayStation.com and search "family controls" for instructions.

Meet Our Expert
Jenny Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 22 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, which PC Pro and Computerfile. Her expertise regularly appears in technology news on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and TV News at 10. She has two children and writes regularly about parental safety issues.

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Click on the picture above to read an article by National Online Security explaining ways to set up devices for children, just in time for Christmas.

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The picture above leads to the Guides page on the National Online Security website where you can find the most relevant and up-to-date guides available.

[Click here to view an article with more information](#)

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CROSS-PLATFORM SHARING OF INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Creepy characters like Slender Man or Huggy Wuggy, dangerous online challenges, songs or videos that aren't suitable for youngsters. When things like these begin trending online, it can be difficult to prevent children accidentally stumbling across them – especially if they use a range of platforms, like online games, social media, streaming sites or messaging apps. A trend can originate in one online space and rapidly spread to other platforms or via chat apps. The frightening Huggy Wuggy character, for instance, first emerged as part of a game on Steam; now there are parody songs on TikTok, videos on YouTube and more than 45,000 results for #huggywuggy on Instagram.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
UNSUITABLE VIDEOS AND IMAGES
On a wider level, there is a danger the possibility that use of unsuitable video content could include inappropriate or harmful content (or the need to buffer ad-supported videos) can be used to share the video. Advertisers try to get their ads in front of as many eyes as possible but the risk is that it goes viral and is difficult to prevent the spread completely.

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
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COPIES OF LIVE STREAMS
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ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE
Even if your child doesn't have access to social media, parents or carers should be aware that still use messaging apps to communicate with family and friends. There is always going to be a risk, therefore, of them seeing something which isn't what you'd expect or be one of their peers or sent accidentally by a relative.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE SAFETY FEATURES
Enable safety settings like Google SafeSearch and the parental restrictions on video-sharing platforms like YouTube. Whenever possible, stick to YouTube Kids for young children, as the software will help to filter out inappropriate content, but remember that there is a risk of inappropriate content being shared privately – especially when child-friendly videos have been pulled individually.

LESS IS BEST
Manage the number of online platforms your child has access to, based on their age and maturity. Just because their friends use a certain phone or app, it doesn't mean your child must have it too. Lower the age limit for any material, especially when child-friendly videos have been pulled individually.

KEEP IT COMMUNAL
Encourage your child to stay in a communal family space when they're watching videos or playing without headphones. If possible, this will allow you to see what they're seeing and hearing while they're online.

AVOID FAN-MADE CONTENT
If your child watches cartoons and shows on YouTube, explain that their favourite characters aren't always who they seem. You can be sure that your child is safe from anything that's been pulled from YouTube.

REACT CALMLY
If you hear or see anything unsuitable on your child's phone, laptop or tablet, explain that they haven't done anything wrong, but that you don't like what they saw or heard and you would much rather they watched or played something else instead.

SUPPORT AND REASSURE
Remind your child regularly that anyone can post anything online, but not everything is real. If you do find anything that's scary or worries them, ask them to show you, watch it alone (to avoid removing them further) then praise them for coming to you and talk about why a friend can't see what they're seeing or what they've done. Encourage them to report the device to something which helps them feel calm and happy.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sambrook is a national online safety consultant at iCyberMatters, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the Internet use and settings behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

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Click on the picture above to read an article by National Online Security explaining how easy it can be to come across inappropriate content online and how to avoid it.

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TikTok has also raised the age limit for livestreaming to 18 years old. This means anyone below the age of 18 cannot host a livestream. They are also adding the ability for creators to limit certain content to exclusively 18+ viewers.

[Click here to view an article with more information](#)