



Online Safety Suggestions for parents of young children.

Hints and tips to keep your children safe on the internet.

Children are able to access the internet when using computers, tablets, phones, X Box, Playstation and their televisions. Children are using technology more every day and as adults, we need to know what they are up to and teach them how to stay safe online. **The most important thing you can do, is talk to your child. Engage in their interests and find out what they are up to. Talk the talk, and they will feel confident to talk to you if things**



Passwords:

You need to be teaching your children about password safety, and encouraging them not to share passwords with friends, you also need to let them know that you will need to have access to their password and equipment, even if you don't memorize it. This will help them if they lock themselves out of their equipment by forgetting their password, and also means that you can monitor their online behaviour, with their permission. Teaching them how to create a strong password is a good idea - starting with mixing numbers and letters with very young children. Take time to explain why you need to know their password, and why they shouldn't share it with anyone else.

Gaming: Children enjoy playing games on their games consoles and the internet. Open and closed groups can be easily set up by young children, and you need to know what is going on in their online play, in the same way as you do their face to face relationships. Sit with them while they are engaged in games and ask them about what is happening, who are they talking to? Build up an interest in their game playing, and again, you will open up that dialogue to engage with your child if they feel things are worrying them.

Social Media:

Technically children under the age of 13 shouldn't be using Facebook, Instagram, snapchat etc. This is difficult as many of their friends may already be using them. Some sites e.g. YouTube, allow children aged 13-17 to have profiles with their parents' consent. When your children are old enough to access social media, take time to sit with them and go through privacy settings, explaining who can see what they publish.

Messaging and Group Chat:

This can be a tricky area to keep an eye on. Make sure that you check in regularly with your children about their group chats, who is taking part in them and that they are only talking to people they know in real life. Ask them if they mind showing you some of their conversations so you can keep an eye on what's going on. Talking to your children will help maintain trust between you, and will ensure that your child will feel they can come and talk to you if something is worrying them online.