

Online Safety News



Autumn 2018 | PARENTS/CARERS

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NSPCC Net Aware

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The internet is an amazing place, a world of exciting possibilities where children can play, learn, create, connect and have fun. It is important that we empower children with the skills and knowledge to navigate this online world safely. The NSPCC and O2 Net Aware guide for parents can help make sure your child is staying safe online. This guide highlights the most popular sites, apps and games that young people use. It equips parents with information about these sites, including the recommended age, the safety features and settings available and the types of risks that young people might encounter. Visit the NSPCC website for further information.

bit.ly/NSPCCOnlineSafety

Webcams and live streaming

Live streaming is a visual broadcast live over the internet using any smart phone or tablet with a camera. It is increasingly becoming one of the most popular online activities for children and young people. Apps such as Musical.ly, Live.me, Periscope and YouNow are all growing in popularity. Live streamed videos are broadcast unedited and shared without delay or editing. Most live stream apps, according to the terms of service, are for 13s and over.

The main risks of live streaming are two-fold, what children might see and also what they might share. With live videoing there is no editing and with this comes the potential for children to see inappropriate, upsetting content. There is also the risk that children will share too much personal information whilst live streaming their own content.

Have a conversation with your child: Are they using livestreaming apps? Are they just watching or are they live streaming their own lives? Have they checked the privacy settings?

For further guidance visit: bit.ly/ChildnetLiveStreaming

Nude selfies and sexting

Sharing a personal image, video or text containing sexually explicit content is referred to as sending 'a nude selfie' or 'sexting'. The content of a message, either a nude or partially nude image, is usually created to be sent to a partner.

If a young person under the age of 18 engages in sexting by creating an explicit photo or video of themselves then they have potentially created an indecent image of a child. By sending this content on to another person, they have distributed an indecent image of a child. By receiving content of this kind from another young person, they are then in possession of an indecent image of a child. All these actions are against the law.

It is important to **talk to your child about:**

Thinking before they post online.

Online privacy and sharing content. Once a child sends an image, it is then out of their control. Even if they think they can trust the person that it was sent to, it could be shared with others or posted elsewhere online.

Sharing intimate images over electronic devices. It never a good idea, the risks are high.

Peer pressure is it pushing your child into activities they are uncomfortable with, or know to be against the law?

Think You Know have created four animated 'Nude Selfies' films (2-3 minutes each) to offer parents and carers advice on how to keep their children safe from the risks associated with the sharing of nude and nearly nude images. Visit the Think You Know website to view these short films.

bit.ly/ThinkuKnowParents



Digiduck: An educational, online safety story app for 3-7 year olds

Based on the story book of Digiducks adventures, the Digiduck tablet app enables parents and children to enjoy the story of Digiduck and his friends.

The story explores the themes of friendship and responsibility online and is a great way to start a conversation with a young child about what they should expect from the online world and how to stay safe.



Fortnite

A survival game



The multiplayer action survival game, Fortnite: Battle Royale, has received a lot of media coverage recently both positive and negative. It is a game growing in popularity amongst children and involves 100 players fighting each other in real time to be the final survivor. To survive players collect weapons and armory and build structures to defend or hide in, while battling everyone else in the game. Epic Games: Fortnite Battle Royale says it does not direct the game to children under the age of 13 in the UK. As with other multiplayer games, there have been online safety concerns raised regarding Fortnite including: chat via text or voice, violent imagery, in-app purchases and possible game addiction. Visit the net aware site for further information about the game and how to keep your children safe while playing it. bit.ly/NetAwareNews

Help keep your child safe online when playing online games:

- **Talk** to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen
- **Use digital devices together:** Get involved in your child's online activities. Have fun, play games, and learn together online
- **Set clear expectations:** Agree your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games
- **Set time limits:** Games can be addictive
- **Be informed:** Set appropriate parental controls

Internet safety resources for parents/carers

Childnet has compiled a list of our resources that can be accessed for free about internet safety.

bit.ly/ChildnetResources

Watch out for parent/carer online safety meetings in primary and secondary schools in Hertfordshire run by Herts for Learning's CEOP ambassadors.

