

INTERNET SAFETY

Children today are growing up in a world dominated by technology. Whilst this can be a fantastic way for children to interact with their friends, learn and be creative, it can also be dangerous.

With younger generations becoming increasingly technology savvy, it is unsurprising that more and more parents are worrying about how they can protect their children online.

Here are a few top tips as to how you, as a parent or

carer, can keep your child safe:

- 1** *Is your child responsible enough to use the internet unsupervised?* If so encourage your child to talk about their online activity. Talk about what they need to do if they see something online they feel uncomfortable about.
- 2** Compile a list of websites they are allowed to visit and make sure they know why some websites are safer than others.
- 3** Set parental controls on internet browsers by creating a user account for your child with appropriate settings. Check out Google's safesearchkids.org for stress-free browsing.
- 4** Discuss the benefits and limitations of using the web to help with homework and other school work.
- 5** Keep up to date with changes – if possible, take time to play around and familiarise yourself with the websites your children are playing on.
- 6** Create strong passwords (a mixture of letters and numbers) and ensure your child does not give away personal information about themselves and others online.
- 7** Find out how to use privacy settings on popular sites. Remember that if you are ensuring that only 'friends' can see the content that your child posts online, this should be people you and your child know and trust in the *real world*. (*Games like Moshi Monster, Club Penguin and Minecraft allow children to communicate online*)
- 8** Other parents are a good source of information. Chat to them about how they help their children manage the digital world.
- 9** Encourage children to think about the impact that information they post online can have on themselves and others. It is important to remember content may remain online forever and can be shared by others.



Safer Internet Day 2017 | Tuesday
7 February
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www.saferinternetday.org.uk



Useful Websites:



Childline:
www.childline.org.uk



Think U Know:
www.thinkuknow.co.uk