

Online safety:

13 personal and practical recommendations on how to keep children safe online

Written by:

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These suggestions will help you to understand the risks of children being active online, restrict escalation to online danger and help prevent deliberate, or accidental, inappropriate behaviour.

1. Get Involved

Use the same apps, social media sites and games so that you understand the landscape

2. Adhere to Age Restrictions

They are there for a reason – children should respect and follow the guidance.

3. Check contacts, friends and opponents

Be aware of who is in the child's network – do you know them? Does their profile ring any warning bells?

4. Be part of closed groups

Although you are networking online, you can limit who can be accessed, and who can access you.

5. Cover up webcams

They can be a valuable asset for many families but it is good practice to turn them off or cover them up when they are not in use.

6. Don't use file sharing or streaming of videos

Accessing illegal content will expose you to unsafe online activity.

7. Use social media positively

An important aspect of staying safe online is creating a positive digital footprint.

8. Use family sharing

Know what is happening on children's devices automatically and immediately.

9. Switch off 'Sync' on Android Phones / Tablets

Be aware of what information you are giving away unknowingly.

10. Only use location settings when required

As more apps seek to gain information about user's location it is important to pay attention to where this has been allowed and when it should be disabled.

11. Use filters to restrict access

Whilst talking to children about online safety is essential, and filters shouldn't be relied upon as the sole answer to online safety, they are still a useful and practical tool and should be utilised appropriately.

12. Don't Share Personal Information

Keep Your Secrets – SECRET

13. Share imagery wisely

Be aware of the impact of sharing Selfies and photographs. You may not be able to control how far they go. Ask permission before sharing images of anyone else.

These tips were written by Jonathan Taylor, an Online Behaviour & Online Safety & Social Media Expert who works with EduCare on our [Online Safety](#) training course.