



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Tackling Child Abuse (HM Government / DfE)

The government has launched a campaign called 'Together we can tackle child abuse'. The resources, aimed at everyone in the community, could be used with parents and include four very short videos explaining physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and online abuse.

The simple mnemonic, ABC, is used to remind people that they should look out for changes in appearance, behaviour or communication. The webpage has a search engine to find out where to report abuse.

For more information, go to: <https://tacklechildabuse.campaign.gov.uk>

Gaming – what parents and carers need to know

The article can be found here: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

3 ways to make gaming safer for your child

1. Talk with your child about gaming. Talk with your child to learn the games they like and the content and features of these. This will help you to understand more about how your child plays games and how appropriate different games are. You can use [NSPCC's online safety hub](#) to find out more information on safer gaming.

2. Learn together. Use our resources to teach your child about safer gaming at all ages. For primary age children you can use our [Jessie & Friends](#) (ages 4-7) and [Play, Like, Share](#) (ages 8-10) resources. Secondary age children can access advice about gaming through our website.

3. Set boundaries and safety settings. [Internet Matters](#) provides step-by-step [guides](#) for putting safety settings in place for each console or device. Spend time setting these up with your child and make sure they know how to block and report on the games they are playing. You should also talk with your child to create an agreement for gaming; think about how much time they can spend, which games they can access, if you will allow in-app purchases and what spaces they can play in. For primary aged children it is advisable to have them play in shared spaces or in the same room as you.

How risky is in-game chat?

Gaming is often a social activity for children and talking with friends is part of their enjoyment. However, in-game chat can pose risks such as:

- **chatting with people they don't know.** This can include adults that are seeking to make contact with children with the intention of [sexual grooming](#).
- **inappropriate or unmoderated chat.** Whilst a lot of chat is moderated, chat is live and there is a risk of exposure to sexual language, swearing or bullying.
- **requests to make chat private.** Once chat is moved off a monitored platform, no one is moderating it. This can be used to pressurise children into sharing personal information, photos, video or chat that they don't want to.
- **offering gifts or trades.** This may be used by offenders to build trust and a relationship with a child, as part of grooming.

Learn more about in-game chat and what you can do to make it safer by reading our [parents and carers guide to in-game chat](#).

How do I know what games are age appropriate for my child?

Our article on [what's appropriate for your child](#) will help you to understand more about the Pan European Game Information (PEGI) age rating system, which helps parents and carers to make informed decisions around games, giving age ratings and content descriptors.

Consider your child's individual needs, emotional maturity and experiences to support the decisions you make around gaming. For example, a game may be rated age appropriate but have content that you know your child will find frightening or won't understand.

Should I be worried about gifts and trades in gaming?

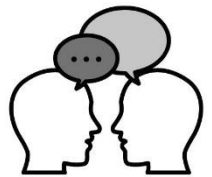
Items such as game currency, [skins](#), [loot boxes](#), tools and weapons are often used in games to help a player progress through the game or give increased status amongst other gamers. Often these require in-app purchases, which many children won't have access to, or require your permission for, so accepting trades or gifts may be tempting.

Whilst not always the case, trades or gifts within gaming can be used by child sex offenders to gain contact with a child. They may offer gifts asking nothing in return, this can be part of [the grooming process](#) and can help to build a close relationship with a young person. They may also try to use gifts as a way to persuade a child to do something such as going on a webcam, taking photos or videos of themselves, moving conversation to a different online platform or to an offline platform such as messaging over phone.



Useful Websites

Whether it is using the internet, games, social media or apps it is important that parents/carers understand the measures they can take to keep their child(ren) safe online. We have put together a directory of useful websites which provide guides and advice to support and also raise awareness of potential threats.



Useful Websites:

Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline. They have a number of resources offering advice about staying safe for each type of device. [Thinkuknow](#)

National Online Safety is a very useful website which contains lots of downloadable guides, helping to advise parents of the dangers of certain apps and programmes. They also make suggestions on what parental controls can be put in place to help reduce risks when using the applications. [National Online Safety](#).

Internet Matters provides expert support and practical tips to help children benefit from connected technology, while using the internet safely and smartly. [Internet Matters](#).

NSPCC Net Aware brings together the NSPCC's expertise in protecting children and O2's tech know-how to help you keep your children safe online. On their site you will find guides for apps, games and social media sites. They also have risk ratings and age recommendations for reviewed apps, sites and games. [Net Aware](#).

Childnet International is a non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. Their site provides a parent/carer toolkit, video lessons amongst other key resources. [Childnet](#).

UK Safer Internet Centre is a site which helps to explain how you can set up filters on your home internet (BT, Sky, TalkTalk or Virgin Media) to prevent age-inappropriate content being accessed on devices in your home. [Safer Internet](#).

Google Safety Centre will help you manage what is right for your family to view online. [Safety Centre](#).

Online-Safety Focus:

Talking about online safety: It is important to have conversations about online safety with your child(ren). The NSPCC have advice about how to [start talking to your child about online safety](#) and how to encourage them to come to an adult if anything is worrying them.

Cyber Bullying: Is any form of bullying which takes place online or through a smartphone/tablet. It's against the law in the UK to use the phone system, which includes the internet, to cause alarm or distress. [Bullying UK](#) has lots of helpful information and advice.

Catfishing: Is where people pretend to be someone they aren't by posting false information. It can be a way for online predators to befriend children and teens and is something parents should help their children be smart online about. NOS has put together a guide providing [top tips](#).

Fake News: Not everything we see online is factual, it can be hard to tell what is the truth and what is a lie. With social media, stories that may be deliberate lies or not completely accurate can be shared quickly and spread to a wide audience. This [CBBC Newsround](#) article goes into depth about fake news and provides some points to look out for.

Reporting Online Safety Concerns:

CEOP: If you are worried that your child is being groomed or sexually exploited you should report your concerns to the CEOP. The CEOP is a command of the National Crime Agency and can investigate what is happening. They will ensure that the safety and wellbeing of your child is paramount at all times. [Reporting to CEOP](#).

Additional Reading for Parents

Internet Watch Foundation Annual Report

This report isn't an easy read, but it contains information regarding the prevalence, distribution and flight to eliminate online images and videos of child sexual abuse.

<https://annualreport2021.iwf.org.uk/trends>

FS/Year 1 book

'On the internet' is a learning-to-read book for children aged 4 and above.

How this book works:

Sharing stories with your child, helps to make learning to read an enjoyable activity!

'On the internet' has been written for your child to read, with your help when needed. There is no 'right' or 'expected' number of words for your child to read in this book. Their interaction will be based entirely on their ability. There are puzzles after the story. You will need to read the instructions for these to your child.

You can access the book here:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/>

Parent support – Goldilocks story

Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube, Twitch... the sheer number of social websites in today's world can feel endless. So, perhaps it's not too surprising that 48% of children have been exposed to social media by age seven.

But before you despair, let's take stock of all the positive outcomes these platforms can have – rallying real change, bridging distances, building communities. The problem is not social media in and of itself. It's how it's used.

That's why we want to help parents like you have important conversations with your children early on about how to build a healthy relationship with social media.

#Goldilocks is a modern twist on the classic fairy tale that offers a fun and accessible way for you to discuss all things social media related with your younger children. Co-branded by Vodafone UK and Andersen Press, award-winning author Jeanne Willis created the light-hearted story alongside illustrator Tony Ross. The book is designed to help educate children about the potential consequences of being unkind, getting carried away with selfies, or oversharing images, as we see Goldilocks getting into trouble with the three bears over her pursuit of likes on social media....

You can access the book and related resources here:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/goldilocks>

Terms of Service – 'Didn't Read - how sights track you'

Find out more information on various websites and the terms that they set and that we so often agree to:

<https://tosdr.org/en/frontpage>