



Scomis' Online Safety Newsletter for Early Years – January 2018

For Parents and Carers:

Welcome to the Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for parents and carers of 0-5 year olds.

We know that parents and carers are concerned about their children's safety 'Online', i.e. what to do about it and where to find help and information. Published each term, this special section for parents and carers will proactively provide advice - for example, signposting resources, the risks of using technology at an early age and much more!

Did your child receive an Internet connected toy at Christmas?

Don't forget that Internet connected toys also present risks and challenges!

- Do you know what information the toy collects?
- Do you know where the information collected is stored?
- Will the toy take pictures and/or store recordings of the child?
- Does the toy require location services to work?
- Can location services be switched off?
- Does the toy require a password?
- Who can interact with the toy?
- Are parental controls available?
- How are parental controls accessed?

Find out more:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/tech-gifts-christmas>
<https://iconewsblog.org.uk/>

Review the checklist from 'Which'

To help keep your family safe the consumer organisation **Which** has compiled a smart toy checklist of the things you need to be aware of before buying a connected toy and once you've brought one home. Access via the link below:
<https://www.which.co.uk/documents/pdf/connect-ed-toy-safety-469632.pdf>



Download the NSPCC's guide – find out how to keep your children safe (great advice for parents too!)
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/share-aware.pdf>

Have you heard of YouTube for Kids?

YouTube Kids gives your family an easy way to watch favourite programmes and explore. It's free, simple to use and full of family-friendly videos:
<https://kids.youtube.com/>

Play and use the internet together

The internet has lots of exciting things to see and do – why not resolve to spend some time as a family exploring the online world together? You could play some of your child's favourite games or research a topic you both find interesting. This is a great opportunity to make sure that everyone is aware of the safety features offered on different games or to talk about what information we can trust online.
(UK Safer Internet Centre – Jan 2018)

Take a look at the following website for advice:

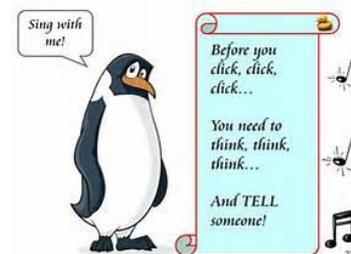


Designed specifically for parents internetmatters.org website offers a wealth of up-to-date unbiased information and advice:

<http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/>

Review Childnet's Online Safety advice for parents and teach your child/children about Smartie the Penguin

- Use the Childnet resource 'Smartie the Penguin' and teach your child/children the rhyme:



<http://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin>

For more information contact Scomis:
E: scomis@devon.gov.uk T: 01392 385300