



Christmas e-Safety

During the Festive Season many children and young People will receive gifts of smartphones, games consoles and tablets. The UK Safer Internet Centre has issued the following advice for parents.

Ask the right questions. Use the shopper's checklist from the UK Safer Internet Centre to help you ask the right questions when buying technology this Christmas. Topics include apps, communication and costs.

Set up parental controls. Most devices will have parental control tools that can help you, for example by preventing in-app purchases so you don't get any shock bills. You can see more detailed guidance about how to set up parental controls at the UK Safer Internet Centre website:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents

Have a conversation. Chat to your children about in-app purchases and other costs that can be incurred when using a device and encourage them to 'think before you click'. It can be helpful to agree spending limits and make sure they know they can turn to you for advice or if they accidentally make a purchase. Use the conversation starters from the UK Safer Internet Centre to talk to your child about staying safe online on an ongoing basis.

Enjoy the technology together. Make sure you know what functions the device has perhaps they can show you their favourite app, or you can play a game together? It may be helpful to be involved when your child downloads an app, so you can review whether it is paid-for or if it has in-app purchases. By staying engaged you can also be there to remind them about the importance of staying safe, and they'll know they can turn to you if anything worries them.

www.saferinternet.org.uk/news/new-devices-for-christmas



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