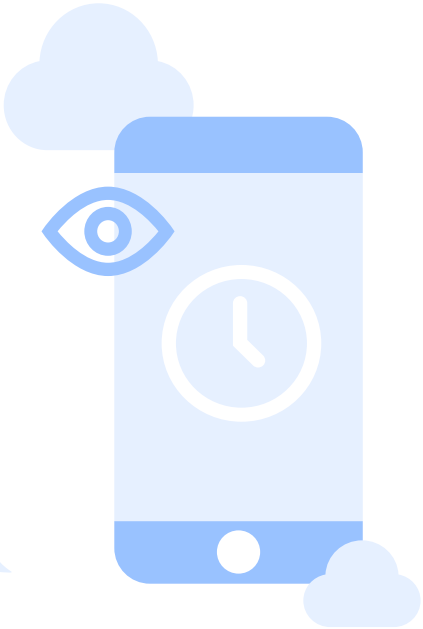
Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children

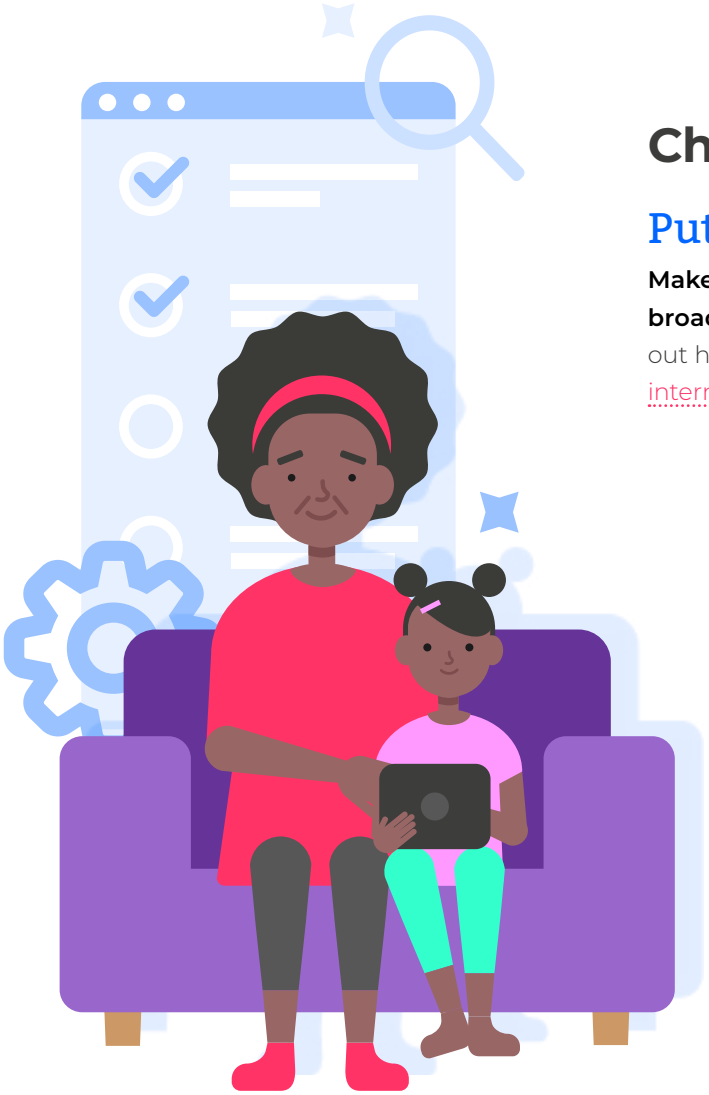
0-5 Year Olds

internet matters.org



25% of parents of 4-5-year-olds are concerned about the time their children spend online

Source: Internet Matters Screen time report: Look both ways 2018



Checklist:

Put yourself in control

Make use parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org.

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by visiting the Google Safety Centre. Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see, if they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.

Set boundaries

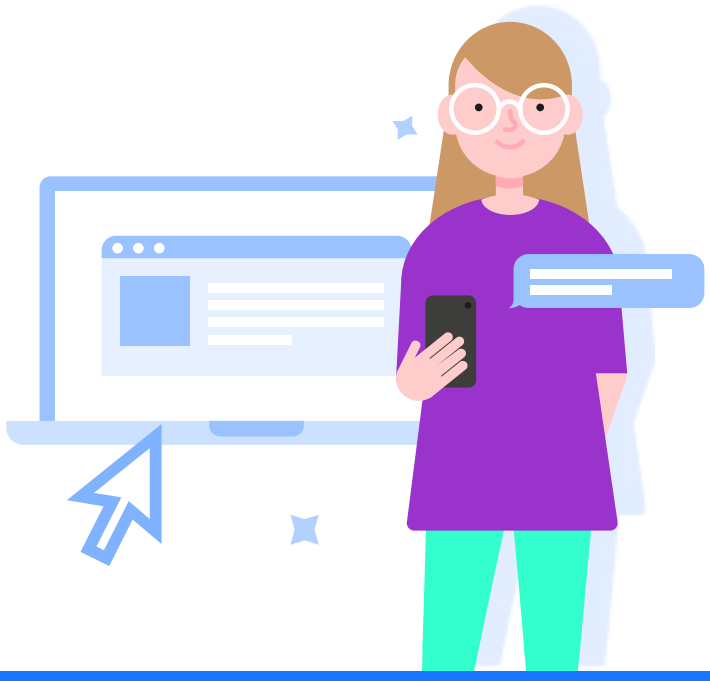
It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a shared spaces like a lounge or kitchen. Make sure to keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first. It's also a good idea to have tech-free mealtimes and not to allow children to have devices in their bedrooms at this age.

Explore together

Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as CBeebies and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

Help them learn through games

Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them. **Choose a variety of safe and educational online games and apps to play with your child** so that you'll feel more comfortable with them exploring. Make use of websites and platforms designed specifically for pre-schoolers like CBeebies, YouTube Kids, Nick Jr, and use age ratings and reviews in the app store to check app suitability.



Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online – with information, advice and support on all the big online safety issues.