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prevention education protection



Out of sight

Out of mind



A Parent's Guide to Navigating New Tech Gifts.

10 Top Tips

The holiday season often brings an influx of new digital technologies into our homes so it's important to ensure the safety of your children while they explore these exciting new devices, games, and social media platforms.

In this blog, we'll discuss some practical steps parents and carers can take to prepare for a safe and enjoyable digital experience for their children.

- Establish clear guidelines and boundaries for keeping your children safe online. Discuss the expectations you have, such as screen time limits, appropriate content, and ensure they understand what responsible online behaviour looks like.
- Set up safe online spaces for your child. For older children, give guidance on how to use privacy features on social media platforms to control who can see their content. For younger children, ensure their profiles have privacy settings that you are comfortable with; create their accounts with them if necessary. For additional support and advice visit [Netangel.org](https://www.netangel.org)
- Discuss what they've been doing online, who they've been interacting with, and what they've

learned from their digital experiences.

- Regularly check in on your child's online activity, respectfully and in a non-invasive manner, as this may help to keep your channels of communication open. Make sure your child understands that it's not that you don't trust them; it's more a reflection of the online harms they may encounter by engaging with others online.
 - Talk with your child about online safety. Discuss topics like grooming, cyberbullying, and the potential dangers of sharing personal information online. Encourage open communication, so your child feels comfortable discussing any concerns they may have.
 - Discuss what it means to be a responsible digital citizen with your child. Encourage them to use the internet responsibly. Emphasise the importance of treating others with kindness and respect, whether they are online or offline.
 - Remind them to report harmful content and behaviour they may encounter.
 - Watch Better Together's [TICK TOCK](#) animation for some sage advice on how to respond to online safety situations and issues as they arise.
- Be a role model. Remember, "actions speak louder than words". Set a positive example by demonstrating responsible and respectful online behaviour. Children often learn from their parents' actions, so be mindful of how you use technology.
 - Relax and enjoy the run up to Christmas.

As parents and caregivers, it's our responsibility to ensure our children have safe and positive digital experiences. By taking these practical steps and staying actively involved in your child's online life, you can help them enjoy their new tech gifts while staying safe and responsible at the same time.

Wishing you and your family a joyful, and digitally secure, holiday season!

All the best,
[Netangel](#) and [Better Together](#)



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