



Out of sight

Out of mind



Black Friday

Fantastic Deals and Fabulous Devices

As Black Friday draws near, we thought we'd take a moment to remind parents/carers who are on the lookout for the fantastic deals and fabulous devices and digital toys with Christmas gifts in mind.

We all know it can be such a buzz to land a fantastic deal on that shiny new device that's been on your, or your child(ren)'s, wish list. However, in all the excitement of Black Friday, remember to put things in place to ensure your/your child(ren)'s safety when buying/giving them new tech.

Here's a list of things to consider:

- If you're buying electrical items from an online store ensure they have been certified with a 'CE' marking to minimise risk of injury and damage to property.
- "If it looks too good to be true," then it probably is. So before deciding what to part with your money do some research into the reviews online, while being mindful that fake reviews are sometimes posted for validation.
- Do price checks before you purchase any electrical goods, not only to get the best deal but also in order to make sure that it's legitimate especially if it's being sold by a virtually new seller or business.
- businesses are required by UK law to provide full details of the product they are selling.

 (2) Customers usually have 14 days from the date of purchase to return the product, and

 (3) if use spend more than £100 on a product using a credit card you can hold both the credit card company and the seller liable if something goes wrong with the transaction.
- Having made your purchase(s), in the run up to Christmas, familiarise yourself with the new technology. Take the time to understand the new devices, games, and platforms your child will be using. Read the instructions and explore the features. This will allow you to be more informed and better equipped to guide your child.
- Most devices and platforms offer parental control settings that allow you to restrict access to certain content and monitor your child's online activity. Switch on these parental controls* and tailor them to your child's age and maturity level. Consider reaching out to Netangel for practical help and support with this.

- Talk with your child about online safety.
 Discuss topics like privacy, 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 any harmful content and behaviour they may encounter.
- Technology evolves rapidly, so try to stay informed about the latest digital trends, apps, potential risks as well as supportive online safety resources. Consider following the LinkedIn pages of <u>Angela Loveridge</u>, <u>Better</u> <u>Together</u> and <u>Netangel</u>.
- If you need support as your child transition through their digital childhood then get help. Better Together offers (1) online safety workshops signposting to practical resources, (2) online safety coaching to help parents to respond not react and (3) a whole family approach to get those awkward conversations started.

If this is the year that your child will be getting their first smart phone (or any other device or technology) use the time between Black Friday and Christmas Day to make it as child friendly a start to their experience as possible.

Benefits of Parental Controls

Content Filtering

Parents can block access to inappropriate content such as explicit websites, violence, or other ageinappropriate materials.

Time Management

Parents can set time limits for internet usage, helping their children to develop healthy screen time habits and preventing excessive use.

Privacy Protection

Parental controls can help protect children's personal information by limiting the data they share online and restricting access to certain social media platforms.

Cyberbullying Prevention

Monitoring tools can help parents to identify and address cyberbullying which may lead to early intervention to protect their children from being harassed online.

Safe Search

Parental controls often include safe search options. This ensures that search engine results are filtered to exclude most inappropriate or explicit content.

App Controls

Parents can manage and restrict the use of specific apps, games or social media platforms to ensure that children are using age-appropriate and safe content.

Location Tracking

Some parental control tools offer location tracking features, allowing parents to know the whereabouts of their children for safety reasons.

Educational Benefits

Parents can use parental controls to guide their children toward educational and age-appropriate online content, fostering a positive and constructive online experience.

Communication Monitoring

Parental controls may provide insights into the communication channels children are using online. This may help parents to identify potential risks and guide their children in appropriate online behaviour.

Establishing Digital Literacy

Using parental controls provides an opportunity for parents to engage in conversations with their children about responsible online behaviour and digital literacy.

Customization

Many parental control tools allow for customisation based on the age and maturity level of each individual child which provides a tailored approach to online safety.

Peace of Mind

Parents can have greater peace of mind knowing that they have tools in place to protect their children from inappropriate content, online predators and other potential risks.

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