

Online Safety News

October 2024



iOS 18 Update launched recently.

With the recent iOS 18 update Apple has increased measures around privacy. Not always a positive when it comes to children using their products. One of the biggest new updates includes the ability for users to hide and lock specific apps behind biometric scanning or passcodes.

It is important to check all previous settings, such as screentime, as the iOS updates can force a reset.

One to watch! if your child has the latest iOS update: **Hide and lock apps in the Hidden Apps folder** With iOS 18, users can now quickly individually lock apps. This means you can require FaceID or a passcode before an app will open which could bring many risks to children. When you choose to hide this app, all notifications will be silenced so you won't have any trail of it existing. Difficult for parents to monitor.

Understanding Nudify Apps & how to protect your child

AI continues to develop but it has also created new dangers, such as nudify apps that generate fake nude images without consent. These apps target not only celebrities but also everyday people, including children, often leading to blackmail, harassment, or emotional harm. Unfortunately, these apps are easily accessible, so it's important for parents and carers to understand how to protect their children.

Here's what parents can do:

- **Awareness:** Let your children know these apps exist and the dangers they pose, even from seemingly innocent image sharing.
- **Open Dialogue:** Encourage them to talk to you if they ever feel uncomfortable or threatened online.
- **Critical Thinking:** Teach them to question the authenticity of images, as deepfake technology can easily manipulate photos.
- **Privacy Settings:** Ensure they use privacy settings on any social media to control who can view or download their images.
- **Check App Store settings,** purchases & restrictions



Ofcom's research has shown that 86% of 3-4 year olds have access to a tablet at home and 21% have their own tablet.

Children access the online world from a young age and it's never too early to start talking about online safety with your child.

Here are 8 tips you can use at home to keep younger children safe online.



- If they are online, spend that time together. Explore different apps and programs together and talk about how to make it safer
- Establish clear boundaries. When and where can they go online, how long, what are they allowed to access
- Supervise your child's use. Have them online in the same room as you so you can hear and see what they are doing and how they are reacting.
- Quality over quantity. Not all screen time is equal. There is a lot of great content online for children which can be inspirational, education and enjoyable but it requires some time to find the right content and block the doom scrolling or harmful content.
- Set up parental controls on all devices (don't forget Smart TV's) , apps and programs they are accessing. It's important to remember that this doesn't guarantee nothing inappropriate or harmful will get through, it just gives an extra layer of protection.
- Start safety conversations early, who is online, how do we behave online, what to do if something scares, upsets or makes their tummy feel funny. Making sure they know that they will not get into trouble or blamed if something upsetting happens online. This will help ensure that they DO come to you if anything does worry them online.
- Check the age settings and ratings for all apps and games they are accessing. Even then, check yourself that you are happy with the content. There are plenty of 'body enhancing and AI dating apps rated just 4+ on the App store!!
- Know how to block and report inappropriate content to help minimise the chance of it happening again.

Regular, relaxed conversations about what your child is doing and seeing online is one of the best ways you can keep them safer online.

Here are some conversation starters to help get the conversation started:

1. What is your favourite thing to do on the iPad/tablet/my phone etc?
2. What is your favourite game/app and why do you like it?
3. Where do we use the iPad/tablet/games console and when can we use it?
4. What can you do if something online upsets you?
5. Who can help you with your favourite games and apps?
6. If a message appears on the screen, what should you do?
7. Who can go online? Do we know everyone online?

