



Using the internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet service providers offer filtering systems to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable texts, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area, not a bedroom, will enable you to supervise children as they use the internet. However, don't deny your child the opportunity to learn from the wide variety of material and games available on the internet. Instead set some simple rules for keeping them safe and make sure they understand their importance.

Simple rules for keeping your child safe

To keep your child safe they should:

- Ask permission before using the internet
- Only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
- Only e-mail people they know
- Ask permission before opening an e-mail sent by someone they don't know
- Not use internet chat rooms
- Not use their real name when using games on the internet
- Never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the internet
- Never give out a home address or mobile number

Some useful websites

www.yahooligans.com

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search

www.askforkids.com

www.kidsclick.org



Information for parents and carers





How your child uses ICT at school

ICT in schools is taught as a subject in its own right and also supports children's learning in other subjects, including literacy and numeracy. Within ICT lessons children learn to use a wide range of ICT including:

- **Word processing** to write stories, poems or letters
- **Databases** to record information
- **Spreadsheets** to create tables, charts and graphs
- **Desktop Publishing** to design posters, leaflets or cards
- **Multimedia Presentation** to present text, pictures and sound
- **Drawing Programs** to create pictures and designs
- **Internet and CD ROMs** to find information
- **Digital Cameras, Electronic Sensors** to record events, changes in light, sound and temperature
- **Controllable Robots** to give instructions and make something happen

How you can help your child at home

ICT is not just about using a computer. It also includes the use of controllable toys, digital cameras and everyday equipment such as a tape recorder or DVD player

Children can develop their ICT skills at home by:

- Writing a letter to a relative
- Sending an email to a friend
- Drawing a picture on screen
- Using the internet to research a class topic
- Planning a route with a controllable toy
- Using interactive games

Benefits of using ICT at home

How we know that using ICT at home can help

Many studies have looked at the benefits of having access to a computer and/or the internet at home. Here are some of the key findings:

- Used effectively, ICT can improve children's achievement
- Using ICT at home and at school develops skills for life
- Children with supportive and involved parents and carers do better at school
- Children enjoy using ICT
- Using ICT provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials

