



Welcome to the December 2025 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Remember—Set up devices!

With Christmas almost upon us, Scomis would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important safety points to consider if your child is likely to receive a:

- SMART device (TV, Speaker)
- new mobile phone
- games console
- tablet PC

Check:

- the device is working correctly
- the device is fully charged
- the parental controls
- the safety settings
- filtering is applied to your home's Wi-Fi

Finally:

- Don't leave setting up the device before you wrap it up!

Check the [UK Safer Internet's 4 tips](#) for giving tech gifts this Christmas including:

Discuss your expectations—make sure everyone understands the importance of staying safe.

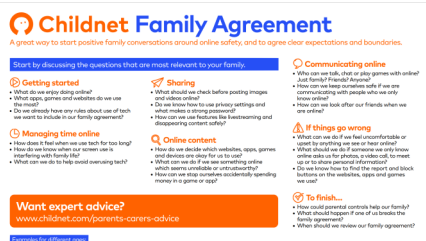
Create a family agreement - a brilliant way:

- to think about how your family uses the internet,
- to help make sure that everybody understands the importance of staying safe and being responsible online.

You could include:

- daily screentime allowances
- where the device is kept at night
- approving friend requests
- permission to download or purchase apps
- use of social media – Remember most social media sites have a minimum age of 13!

Check Childnet's free family agreement template available for download [here](#) (examples for different ages)



Visit the following websites for sound advice and guidance:

- [Childnet Key Topics for Parents](#)
- [Online Issues and social media guides on UKSIC](#)
- [Keeping Under-Fives Safe Online](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)
- [Ask About Games](#)

Reminder—Be a good digital parent

- Keep passwords safe and **do not** share them
- Schedule notifications to turn off for certain times of the day
- Talk about things you read online with your children
- Think about what **you** are sharing online
- Give practical tips for dealing with unwanted content or contact
- Show your child how to take screen shots
- Reassure your child that they can talk to you or another trusted adult to ask for help

Need help?

Visit the following websites for more guidance:

Vodafone's Digital Parenting Helping your family live a happy and safe digital life

Childnet's Parent and Carers [Toolkit](#) Three resources offering practical tips on keeping your child safe online

UK Safer Internet's Centre's Advice on online issues includes guidance on how to report, when to report and where to report.

Internet Matters [Helping parents keep their children safe online](#) includes guidance on buying new tech

Internet Connected Devices

Did you know many devices now connect to the Internet?

- Internet connected devices can send and receive data
- respond to voice commands and be controlled remotely using a smartphone app.

Examples of internet connected devices include:

- Doorbells, CCTV
- Toys, robots, drones and much more

If not set up properly, the risks include:

- Developers or hackers may be connected to your device without your knowledge
- Baby monitors, children's tablets, drone toys, can be hacked and used by people outside of your home.

Find out how to keep you and your family safe and visit the [NSPCC's website](#)

HELP IN THE HOLIDAYS!

Don't forget! advice is just a phone call away from the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000**

Childline **0800 1111** email: childline.org.uk

Websites to check:

Childnet's Parent and Carer's Toolkit

ThinkUKnow's advice for Parents and Carer's