

FOSTER CARER

FACT SHEET: CYBER SAFETY

Cyber Safety

Getting children and young people to use the internet in a safe and responsible way is the responsibility of the adults caring for them.

As foster carers it can be a difficult task to manage online time and safety on the internet for young people without it becoming your full time job!

Staying safe on the internet is about making sure your children are not accessing sites that are age inappropriate or being subjected or initiating any type of online bullying. Trying to keep up to date with today's technology can be overwhelming, however there is help out there!



Confused and lagging behind in your online knowledge?

Do not despair, there is help out there that will explain in easy plain language what you need to understand to make sense of what the kids in your care are saying! A great example of this is the "games apps and social networking quick guide" that appears in the safety information page on the child safety commission website.

From Facebook to Minecraft to Call of Duty, applications and games are explained so that you will be able to make good decisions about what your children are playing online.

How do we keep our kids safe?

The office of the child safety commissioner has identified a number of areas to consider when teaching children and talking to young people about staying safe on the internet.

esafety.gov.au/

Topics discussed include:

- Balancing Online Time
- Cyberbullying And Online Predators
- Online Gaming
- Photos, Videos And Social Media
- Protecting Personal Information
- Sexting
- Digital Reputation
- Offensive Or Illegal Content
- Social Networking
- Trolling
- Unwanted Contact



Privacy settings, parental controls and open discussion of issues is the key to keeping children and young people safe.

Support and advice is freely available on all the above subject areas, with links to further support such as the kids help line, how to report cyber bullying, educational resources, illegal online content.

A cyber safety help button is available to be installed on all computers and mobile devices so that it can be accessed anytime. Find it on the cyber safety help and advice page

esafety.gov.au/about-the-office

This site also provides direct links to the following sites:

- Kids Help Line
- The pages for reporting abuse pages for social networking sites such as Facebook
- Scam Watch
- Australian federal police report inappropriate online content or unwanted contact
- Cyber safety information websites