1. Talk about their online world

We talk to children about crossing the road, bullying and speaking to strangers. But what about staying safe in the digital world? Having regular conversations about what your child is doing online - just like you would talk about their day at school – it is the best way to keep them safe and spot any problems. Encourage them to come to you if they're worried and make sure they know what's ok to share online - and what's not. All personal information should be kept private.

2. Gaming: Fortnite

Fortnite is growing in popularity amongst children and while there are several features that can be fun, there are also emerging safety concerns. The game has cartoon violence where you can use a variety of weapons to kill other players, such as guns and axes. There are in-app purchases, which can become expensive. Also, there is a chat feature in the game that allows users to contact each other using voice or text. The official PEGI rating for this game is actually 12 years old. Here are some useful tips when gaming online:

1. Disable voice chats in the game
2. Limit how long your child spends online.
3. Always talk to your child about what they are doing online and explore your child's online activity with them.

3. Parental Controls

Parental controls are an important way to keep your child safe online. Innocent searches sometimes reveal not so innocent results. Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. And the good news is parental controls are really easy to set up. Have a look at the UK Safer Internet Centre website for step by step videos on how to do this.

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider

4. Cyberbullying

Bullying doesn't just happen in the playground. It can happen anywhere, including online, and in many ways. Bullies can reach children through their phones, laptop, games console or tablet. The Stop Speak Support campaign aims to help children and young people spot cyberbullying and know what steps they can take to stop it happening and provide support to the person being bullied.

https://www.stopspeaksupport.com/

5. PEGI or not?

You may have seen PEGI ratings on games and online apps. PEGI stands for Pan European Game Information and considers the age suitability of a game or app. The age ratings provide parents with guidance and help to decide whether or not to buy a particular product for a child. As every child is different, some tips for parents to consider when buying a new game are:

- Always look for the PEGI rating and age classification on any game packaging.
- Try to look for a summary or a review of the game.
- Ideally play the game yourself or play with your child. This will allow you to watch how your child plays and talk to them about it.

6. Minecraft: Pocket Edition

Minecraft is a game that lets you build and create a virtual world using building blocks. Other activities include using the multiplayer function to explore the worlds created by other users and to combat, chat and play with them. Just like other popular games, children love being creative and building their own world however the game has an age 7+ PEGI rating. One way to stay safe is to not join a server and just play with people that you know. That way people you don't know can't message mean things.

7. YouTube

YouTube allows you to watch, create and comment on videos. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile. As well as allowing you to listen to music and learn new things from videos, it allows live streaming. The official age rating is 13+ for You Tube and anyone under 13 should be supervised by an adult. To ensure children are safe, use YouTube Kids or ensure that the restricted mode is enabled. This will prevent children seeing inappropriate content, adverts and comments.