

## 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

## How you can help your child at home

Children can be helped to 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
- Using interactive games.



# Children, ICT and Safety



## The purpose of this guide:

Children of today are increasingly using Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in schools and in the home.

## This guide explains:

- How your children are using ICT in school.
- How using ICT in the home can help children to learn.
- How children can use the Internet safely at home.
- Where to access further information



## Using the Internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems and tools to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable text, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer or other browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area where possible, not a bedroom will enable you to supervise your son or daughter as they use the Internet. Also consider mobile phones and games consoles and other devices that can access the internet. However, don't deny them the opportunity to learn from and enjoy the wide variety of material and games available on the Internet. Instead discuss with them some simple rules for keeping safe online and making sure they understand their importance.

### Useful Websites for Further information

NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/)

Childnet: [www.childnet-int.org](http://www.childnet-int.org)

CEOP: [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

## Internet Safety



### Simple rules for keeping your child safe

To keep your child safe they should:

- ask permission before using the Internet and discuss what websites they are using
- only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
- only email people they know, (why not consider setting up an address book?)
- ask permission before opening an email sent by someone they don't know
- not use their real name when using games or websites on the Internet, (create a nick name)
- never give out any personal information about themselves, friends or family online including home address, phone or mobile number
- never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the Internet.
- Always tell their parent or carer if someone from the internet has asked to meet them.
- never tell someone they don't know where they go to school or post any pictures of themselves in school uniform
- only use a webcam with people they know
- tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with.