**Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children 0-5 Year Olds**

**Checklist:**

Put yourself in control

**Make use parental controls available**

**on your home**

**broadband and any internet-enabled devices.**

You can find

out how at your broadband provider’s website or

by visiting

[.](https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/)

internetmatters.org

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or

kids-search.com.

**Safe search settings can also be**

**activated on Google and other search engines**

as

well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so

that they can’t be inadvertently removed. You can

find out more by

[.](https://safety.google/intl/en_uk/families/)

visiting the Google Safety Centre

Once you’ve put all of these controls in place have

a browse and search for a few things to see what

your children might see, if they were to do the same.

Remember that voice-activated search works really

well now.

*25*

*% of parents of 4-5-year-olds*

*are concerned*

*about the time their children spend online*

*\*Source:*

[*8*](https://www.internetmatters.org/about-us/screen-time-report-2018/)

*Internet Matters Screen time report: Look both ways 201*

# Set boundaries

**It’s never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices** and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a shared spaces like a lounge or kitchen. Make sure to keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can’t go online without asking you first. It’s also a good idea to have techfree mealtimes and not to allow children to have devices in their bedrooms at this age.

# Explore together

**Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as CBeebies** and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you’ve chosen.

**Know this stuff matters,**

**but don’t know where**

**to turn?**

**Internet Matters is a free online resource for**

**every parent in the UK. We’ll show you the**

**best ways to protect your children online –**

**with information, advice and support on all**

**the big online safety issues.**

InternetMatters internetmatters @im\_org

**Visit internetmatters.org for more advic**

[**e**](http://www.internetmatters.org/)

# Help them learn through games

Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them. **Choose a variety of safe and educational online games and apps to play with your child** so that you’ll feel more comfortable with them exploring. Make use of websites and platforms designed specifically for pre-schoolers like CBeebies, YouTube Kids, Nick Jr, and use [age ratings](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/video-games-age-ratings-explained/) and reviews in the app store to check app suitability.