

Protecting under-5s from online scams

internet
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How to keep scammers from targeting your child

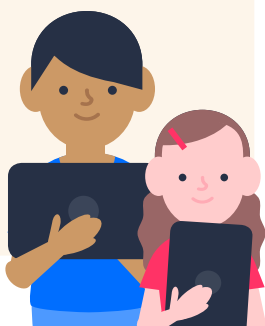
Learn to **recognise** risk, **react** in appropriate ways and **resolve** issues caused by scams online.

Recognise



- Show children the **trusted apps and websites** that are safe to use like [YouTube Kids](#) or [CBeebies](#). They should get your help if they end up somewhere unfamiliar.
- Teach them to tell you if unexpected things pop-up on screen to **avoid accidentally clicking or tapping on something risky**. You can limit the chances of this happening by using [parental controls](#).
- Help your child get into the habit of **asking you** if they can watch a new video or play a new game to avoid clicking unfamiliar links.

Remember: Use simple, age-appropriate language to explain that asking for help or permission will help keep them safe.



React



- Give your child **simple steps to take** if they see something scary or unfamiliar like telling you as soon as it happens.
- **Create a secret word** for your family/people you trust and teach it to your child. This can help your child check if someone is who they say they are, which can help them stay safe.
- Regularly **review the games your child plays and the videos they watch**, including their watch history or screen time reports. This can help you identify potential risks.

Remember to run regular security checks as well. You can do this by ensuring their device has [cyber security software](#) installed.



Resolve



- If they do click on something without asking you first, get them into the habit of **telling you so you can take action**.
- If something seems suspicious, keep calm and close down the app. Then, **check the device for safety risks** such as through running a virus scan with your [anti-virus software](#).
- If someone has managed to contact them, **block and report the user**. Depending on what the stranger says to them, consider making a report to [ActionFraud](#) or the [IWF](#).

- **Calmly talk with your child** about what happened. Explain how checking with you before clicking can keep them safe. Also, review the situation together to **build their critical thinking** and to help them make safer choices.

You might also want to review the [parental controls](#) you use to see how you can minimise an issue in the future.



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