

# Spring E-Safety Newsletter



## SWIGGLE



This is an ad-free search engine designed specifically for young children taking their first steps on the internet.

Search results are filtered using Google SafeSearch and educational resources prioritised. It also filters the search terms to check that Swiggle is not being used to search for inappropriate content.

## Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>



**Remember YouTube is designed for children aged 13 and over. YouTube Kids can filter inappropriate content. However it is important to monitor what your child is viewing to ensure it is appropriate.**

## Get to know Age Ratings

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so we thought we would provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online, using social media or downloading other apps – check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. While age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will enable you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls.

Further information- Parent Zone have published this article about why age ratings matter: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

## LEGO Fortnite – PEGI 7



Lego Fortnite is free to play (in game purchases are available though). You should be aware that this game can be played with up to seven people. If your child is under the age of 13, then they will be given a 'cabin account,' meaning certain features will be disabled (such as communicating with other players) unless you override them. Please ensure you set the parental controls as appropriate for your child, we also recommend setting the appropriate settings on the console itself.

There are two worlds available- Survival or Sandbox, you can find out more about each world here so you can decide which would be best for your child:  
<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/themes/fortnite/lego-fortnite-parents-guide>

## Smart Speakers

Like any piece of technology smart speakers have both benefits and risks. Being aware of risks and knowing how to manage them is the best way to keep your children safe:

Accessing explicit or inappropriate content – You can turn off explicit content in settings, set up voice recognition or set parental controls to filter out inappropriate content.

Making unauthorised or accidental purchases – You can set passwords or use two-step verification for purchases, or turn this feature off in settings.

Data collection, being hacked and scams – You can turn off 'always on' mode in settings. Keep your device software updated, use strong passwords and two-factor authentication where possible.

Have conversations with your child around the boundaries and responsible use of smart speakers. It is important children know what to do if something goes wrong and feel confident in seeking help.

Further information- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/smart-speakers>



## Broadband Set Up

Have you set up appropriate settings on your broadband/Wi-Fi? Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here:

Sky:

<https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-buddy/skybroadband-buddy>

BT:

<https://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-onlinewith-bt-parental-controls-an>

Talk Talk:

<https://community.talktalk.co.uk/t5/Keeping-your-Family-Safe/bd-p/kfshub>

Virgin:

<https://www.virginmedia.com/broadband/parental-control>

### Test Your Internet Filter

SWGfL have created a tool to test your filtering to give you an indication that your broadband is blocking certain categories. Access it here:  
<http://testfiltering.com/>

Remember, children may have devices that use mobile data, so they won't always be connected to your Wi-Fi. Ensure you set up parental controls on these devices too.

## Cyberbullying

Setting up a profile impersonating somebody else with the intention of being unkind to others/to cause embarrassment to the individual is a form of cyberbullying. Have conversations with your child about how this is a form of bullying and therefore not acceptable.

It is important that we talk to our children about the issue of cyberbullying and let them know that if they are ever a victim of it then it is not their fault, and they should tell you (or a trusted adult) straightaway. Talk to your child about reporting and blocking tools on social media or online games and show them how to use them to report any form of bullying.

You can find blocking tools on social media and online games in their settings.

Further information: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abusesafety/types-bullying/bullyingcyberbullying/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-ofabuse/bullying-andcyberbullying/>

Additionally, Report Harmful Content have listed how you can report impersonation accounts on the different social media networks here:

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/advice/impersonation/>