

E safety Update



1. Parents struggle to get children off devices January 2016

Many UK parents find it easier to get their children to do homework, go to bed or have a bath than turn off their phones, laptops and TVs, a poll finds.

Link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-35231455>

2. “Unplugging” from Technology - Top Tips

Technology is an often necessary part of the lives of children and parents alike, but it’s important to maintain a balance with other activities and quality family time. We know from our extensive work with families that strong relationships with parents build resilience in children, making them less susceptible to bullying or abuse outside the home, and encouraging them to speak to their parents about any fears or concerns.

Carol Iddon, Managing Director of Operations of Action for Children

In light of research findings, Action for Children has developed five top tips to help parents get the whole family to unplug and play:

- 1. Plan fun activities for the whole family that don’t involve technology.**
- 2. Create a balance between technology use and other activities by creating a weekly schedule on the principle of an hour of 'energy in' (technology use) equalling an hour of 'energy out' (other activities).**
- 3. Tap into your own experience: when you were a child, what was your favourite game to play? Share these with your children.**
- 4. Identify the challenges your children enjoy in the video games they play and replicate them. Do they like games about sport? Encourage them to play the real deal in the park or go as a family to a local match. Are their favourite games puzzles or brain-teasers? Organise a board game night.**
- 5. Practice what you preach: when your children are having screen-free time, turn off your devices too. Don’t waste the opportunity!**

Link: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-opinion/latest-news/2016/>

For more information about e safety :

- go to <http://www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk>
- come into school and talk to a member of Student Services

January 2016

3. New measures to keep children safe

All schools to filter inappropriate content and teach pupils about staying safe including online harm.

All schools will be required to put in place strengthened measures to protect children from harm online - including cyber bullying, pornography and the risk of radicalisation - under plans unveiled by Education Secretary Nicky Morgan today (22 December 2015).

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-keep-children-safe-online-at-school-and-at-home>

4. What more can the tech industry do to protect children's safety online?

Tools for tracking and reporting offensive images and video are being adopted but differing legislation between countries makes a joined-up approach difficult.

The issue of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) is a global one. 1.8bn photos are uploaded onto the internet everyday, some 720,000 of which are illegal images of children, and technology is making it easier to access and distribute this material.

So what measures does the tech industry have in place to ensure children's safety online, and what is their future potential?

The most cited example is Microsoft's Photo DNA, the use of which is now considered best practice in fighting child exploitation online. Photo DNA - which was originally intended for internet service providers - helps track images of child sexual abuse by using an algorithm to create a unique signature, or fingerprint. This allows the technology to reliably identify copies of the image even if photos are marginally changed.

But social media companies have been criticised for not taking online safety seriously. In this open letter to Facebook from the NSPCC earlier in the year, it's clear that offending material is not taken down quickly enough.

Social media companies like Facebook also need to consider the right to freedom of expression. In the past, the context within which disturbing material is presented has been important - if users are raising awareness, it can be viewed with a warning screen, but if the content is shared and encouraging the behavior, it is taken down.

Link: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/dec/22/what-more-can-the-tech-industry-do-to-protect-childrens-safety-online>

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