

Stay Safe Online This Holiday Season!

The holiday season is a special time for everyone—whether you're celebrating with family, enjoying time off, or simply relaxing at home. With many children receiving new devices like tablets, smartphones, and gaming consoles, it's the perfect moment to think about online safety.

Here are **top tips** to help your family enjoy technology responsibly:

Learn Your Way Around New Tech


Protect your family from surprises:

- **Disable In-App Purchases** to avoid unexpected charges.
 - **Use Built-In Safety Features:** Tablets and smartphones often have controls to block unsuitable content or limit screen time.
 - **Choose Age-Appropriate Apps and Games:** Check reliable resources like [Net Aware](#) or [Common Sense Media](#). Kid-friendly platforms like [CBeebies iPlayer](#) and [YouTube Kids](#) are great starting points.
-

Mobile Devices for Older Children

With smartphones being mobile computers, setting boundaries is key:

- **Screen Time Limits:** Decide how long they can use their devices daily.
- **No Phones at Bedtime:** Keep devices out of bedrooms to promote healthy sleep habits.
- **Encourage Open Conversations:** If you have concerns, talk to your children about their online activity rather than relying solely on monitoring tools.

 **Parental Controls:** Many Wi-Fi routers let you block inappropriate content and set limits on usage times.

Safe Gaming

Gaming consoles and online multiplayer games are exciting but come with risks:

- **Check Game Ratings:** Visit [PEGI](#) or [Ask About Games](#) to ensure games are age-appropriate.
- **Supervise Online Communities:** Make sure your child is ready to interact responsibly in multiplayer environments.

- **Be Mindful of Costs:** Some games include additional purchases; make sure you're aware of these.
-

Enjoy Tech as a Family

The holiday season is a great time to bond with your children. Explore new games, apps, or educational tools together. This helps you stay engaged and ensures they enjoy technology safely.

For more advice, visit [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

Wishing you and your family a safe, happy, and joyful holiday season!