

Online relationships

AGES 5 TO 7

At this age, online relationships are likely to be with people that children know in real life and managed by their parents or teachers. Model polite online behaviour and relate this to the way they behave when face-to-face with someone.

Ensure that children are clear about what to do if they are upset by something online, including someone trying to make them do something wrong.

Reinforce that your child should never have feelings of guilt or embarrassment if they have come unstuck online. Speaking about mistakes or inappropriate interactions is essential.

Top tips:

- Build a level of trust where your child knows that they can talk to you if something goes wrong online.
- Your child should never be too embarrassed or ashamed to talk to you due to coming unstuck online.
- Teach your child that others can have bad intentions and lie about who they say they are.
- Establish safeguarding strategies your child can use such as not using their real name, limiting information shared and reporting inappropriate behaviours.

26%

of 6-year olds use the web for social media.
(Opinion Leader, 2016)



Contact us

Tel: 0208 203 1781

Email: support@2simple.com



AGES 7 TO 11

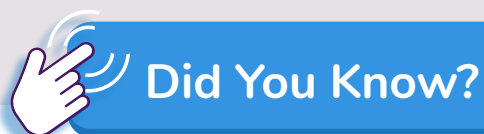
Children may want to begin online communication with strangers even though most platforms for doing this are restricted to those aged 13 and above. Discuss why this is the case and make them aware that the restrictions are there to keep them safe as some content may not be appropriate for their age group.

Ensure that children have a good understanding of how to protect their own identity when online. This includes password security, keeping their data safe, being aware of businesses that might want to gain access to their data and how the actions they take online influence their digital footprint.

Help children to recognise the value of sleeping on a problem if they are tempted to reply in anger on social media. Children should keep in mind that when they get angry and have a big argument at home or with a friend,

The lines between reality and the online world can be easily blurred and distorted. It's incredibly hard for younger children to comprehend that someone online might not be who they claim to be and to understand that the intentions of others could be very harmful.

We have a vital role in modelling how we interact with others online, even if it is a collaborative online game that uses non-identifying information such as gamertags. Left to their own devices, children can find themselves in situations that could spiral out of control. They should be taught to exercise the same caution when interacting with strangers online as they do in the real world.



Did You Know?

1 in 6

of all 8-11s play games against people they have not met in person (Ofcom, 2017)

Liargirl453

Hi, do you want to team up for this game? Where do you live?

Superman722

Hello Liargirl453. Sure, let's complete this mission together! I can't tell you where I live though.