

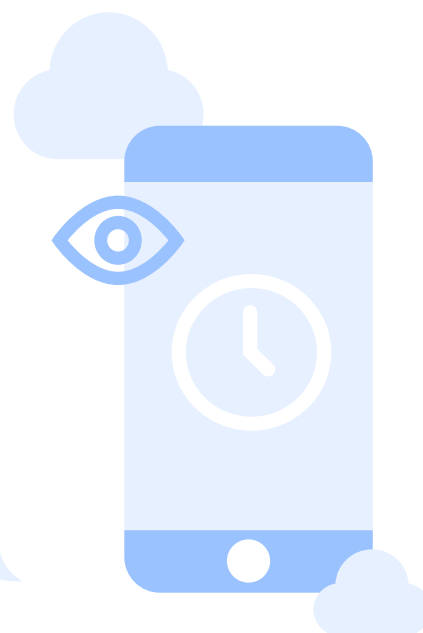
# Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children

## 0-5 Year Olds

internet  
matters.org

*25% of parents of 4-5-year-olds are concerned about the time their children spend online*

\*Source: [Internet Matters Screen time report: Look both ways 2018](#)



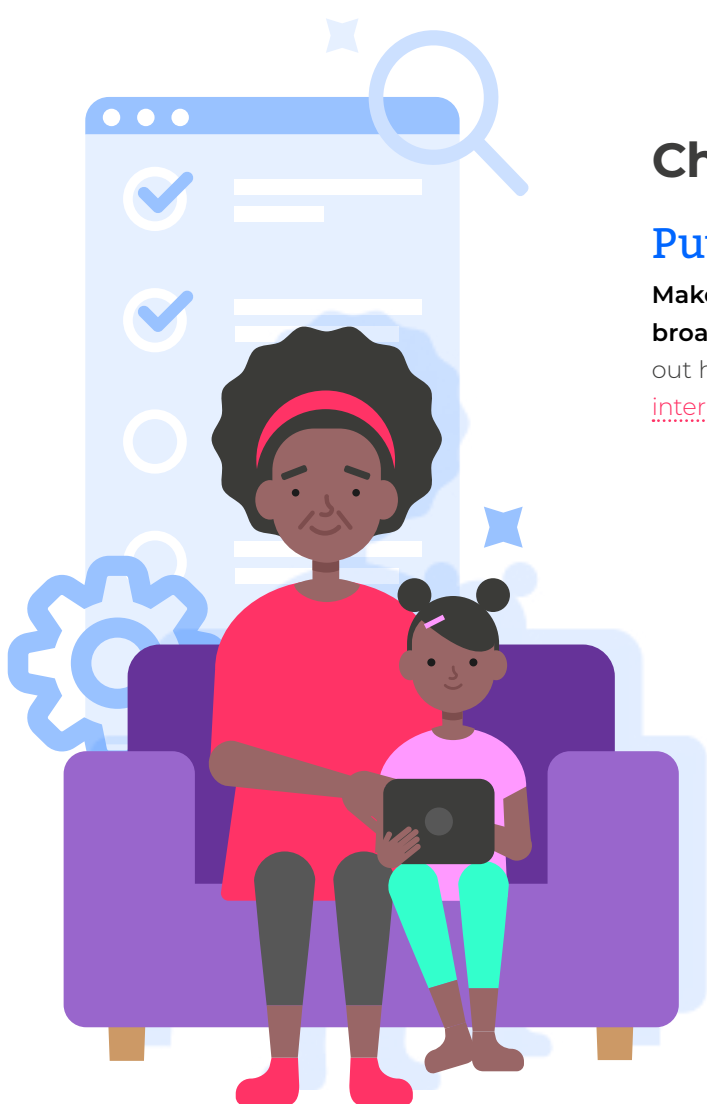
### Checklist:

#### Put yourself in control

**Make use parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices.** You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or [by visiting internetmatters.org](#).

#### Search safely

Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](#) or [kids-search.com](#). **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by [visiting the Google Safety Centre](#). Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see, if they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.



## Set boundaries

**It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices** and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a shared spaces like a lounge or kitchen. Make sure to keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first. It's also a good idea to have tech-free mealtimes and not to allow children to have devices in their bedrooms at this age.

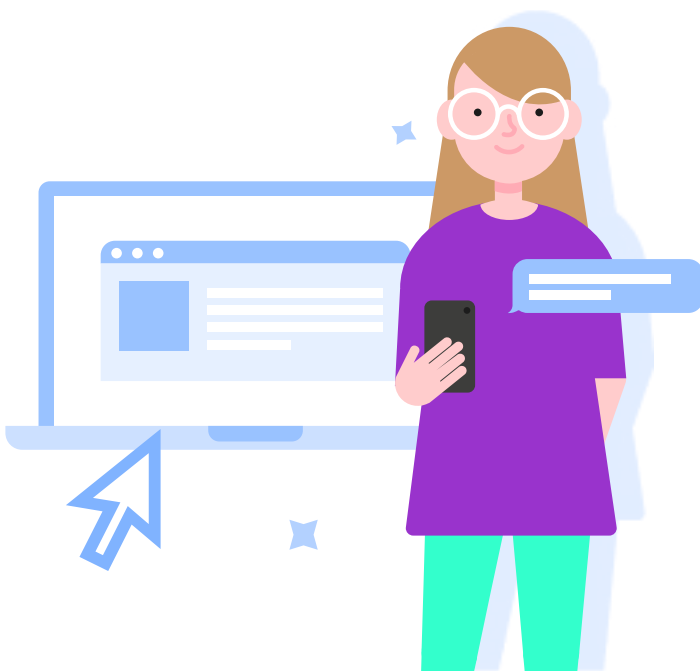
## Explore together

**Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as CBeebies** and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

## Help them learn through games

Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them.

**Choose a variety of safe and educational online games and apps to play with your child** so that you'll feel more comfortable with them exploring. Make use of websites and platforms designed specifically for pre-schoolers like CBeebies, YouTube Kids, Nick Jr, and use [age ratings](#) and reviews in the app store to check app suitability.



## Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online – with information, advice and support on all the big online safety issues.

Visit [internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org) for more advice

 InternetMatters

 internetmatters

 @im\_org

**internet  
matters.org**