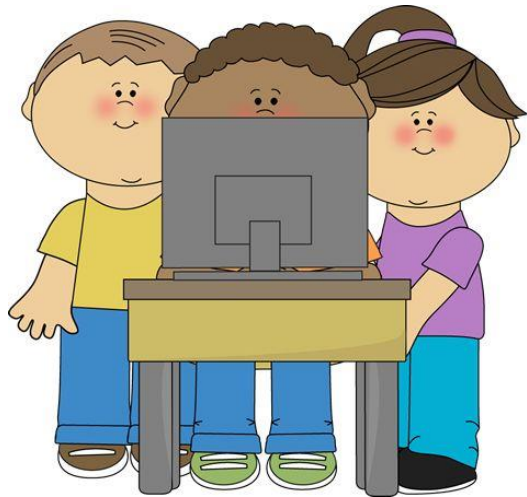




Rainbow Pre-school & Extended Services

Guide to Online Safety for young children



Today most children tend to know more about computers than their parents. So it is important for adults to be aware of the dangers to even small children on line, and what we can all do, at home and at pre-school, to keep them safe.

In these modern times it is almost impossible to avoid computers, whether we like them or not they are a huge part of our society. The invention of the touch screen has made IT more navigable for our younger children. Because of this, it's more important than ever before that when children have access to phones, laptops, tablets and computers, that they are always supervised and that they can't access sites which they shouldn't see.

At Rainbow Pre-school & Extended Services children rarely use ICT which is connected to the internet, if they do it is with close adult supervision.

We are also very careful about what we put online ourselves. This means that any photographs we use on our website or Facebook only show children whose parents have provided permission, or show children from behind or with their faces turned away. This is to ensure that they can't be identified. We never use any names of children online.

Advice to parents;

Children learn very quickly, and at pre-school age often they learn by watching you! You may think that your child would never remember your computer password but would they be able to copy your finger movements to be able to get into your phone or tablet independently?

Start talking to you children about e-safety at a young age, with short and frequent chats. Revisiting the topic will help them remember and there is too much to cover in one conversation!

- ✓ Set boundaries from the start. It's much easier to lay out ground rules from the beginning rather than playing catch up!

- ✓ Check out websites before your child uses them, vet them for suitability.
- ✓ Read the parental pages on websites that explain how the site works and how they keep your child safe.
- ✓ Make sure your default home page is suitable for children
- ✓ Talk to other parents, share experiences about websites your children use and help each other!
- ✓ Play games with your child to get them used to being online, they will also learn more by playing alongside an adult.
- ✓ Set 'Safety Mode' up on YouTube to help filter out explicit content.
- ✓ If you use Google, turn on Google 'Safe Search' to filter sexually explicit content from your search results.
- ✓ Try not to let your children use IT too often, and not for at least 1hr before bedtime (it stimulates the brain!)
- ✓ When you can, use the internet to help your child learn about the world around them. If they ask you a question, look it up together!
- ✓ Be aware of what older brothers and sisters are playing and watching. It may be appropriate for their age, but should it be seen by a younger child?

REMEMBER: When you upload photographs of your children to Facebook, do you know who has access to them? Could they be identified by anyone with unwanted intentions? All photographs on the internet can be copied and placed elsewhere!! These are all things you need to consider as a parent whose job is to keep your children safe! If your child sees something they shouldn't, even by accident, and tells someone about it, it may lead to safeguarding questions being asked.