

Online Safety **for families and children** **with SEND**

Online safety is everyone's responsibility

The internet and technology are an integral part of everyday life for children. It is important that we acknowledge the positive opportunities the internet provides our children with special educational needs (SEND); the accessibility can make it an excellent learning tool, whilst it can also support children to socialise and access a range of support.

However, it is well documented that children with SEND are more vulnerable online and more likely than their peers to experience online issues such as cyberbullying, online grooming and exploitation.

Similarly, children with SEND are more likely to have their internet use restricted and therefore have limited opportunities to learn through experience, develop resilience or seek support, which would empower them to use technology safely. This may be because they have:

- Have additional communication needs
- They do not understand what is happening to them online and may often misunderstand the signs of abuse
- Need intimate care or are isolated from others and seek to belong
- Are dependent on adults in order to keep safe

The NSPCC have partnered with '***Ambitious about Autism***' to bring online safety tips, advice and activities specifically for parents and carers of children with SEND, underpinned by advice from parents with children who have dyslexia, autism and speech and language difficulties.

By clicking on the blue title above, you can find out how you can support online wellbeing for your child with SEND using a range of wellbeing tips, and research a list of activities you can do with your child including:

- Sharing personal details
- Friendships online

- One-page profiles
- Cyberbullying for children with SEND visual article
- Talking to people online for children with SEND visual article.

It is important to note that any strategies and activities aimed at supporting children with SEND are brilliant strategies and activities for all children.

Set aside some time to have a look at the resources and.....

Please take note of what your parental responsibility is to ensure that your child is safer online.



Working together to keep our children safe and happy online.