Online safety in early years

Using the internet with children to research more information has lots of benefits but this has to be done safely. All settings should have an online safety policy. Staff should be familiar with this and follow the procedures.

Top tips:

- Ensure you have appropriate antivirus and anti-spyware software on all devices and update them regularly
- Have content blockers and filters on all devices
- Ensure all devices are password protected
- Monitor internet use and children's screen time to ensure they remain safe online and have access to material that promotes their development
  - Screen time should be within an acceptable level and integrated within their programme of learning
- Provide secure storage at the end of the day for all devices
- Ensure there are no social media or messaging apps installed on them
- Review all apps and games ensuring they are age and content appropriate
- Only use nursery devices to record/photograph children in the setting
- Report emails with inappropriate content to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
- Teach children how to stay safe and report any concerns
- Ensure children are supervised when using internet-connected devices
- Make staff aware that they must follow your setting's safeguarding policy if they have any concerns relating to online safety.