

Updates this week:

- New, free videos for children and young people.
- CEOP - new activity packs for parents.
- SafeToNet - free online safety app for 1 million parents, for life
- Instagram - new anti bullying features
- New resource for parents - Taming Gaming
- Children on TikTok nearly as much as YouTube
- Video - keep it real online
- New X-Box parental control app
- New sexting study - Look at Me

New videos for children and young people

Over the last few weeks I have been recording a few videos for primary and secondary/college students on a range of diverse subjects, but all related to online safety. They're all free and have english subtitles.

See [HERE](#) for all the videos.

CEOP - new activity packs for parents

CEOP have released their new online safety activity packs for all age ranges, this time focussing on the activity of online gaming. Links to the various packs are:

- 4-5 year olds [HERE](#)
- 5-7 year olds [HERE](#)
- 8-10 year olds [HERE](#)
- 11-13 year olds [HERE](#)
- 14+ [HERE](#)

There is also a new article and video to help parents and carers understand how in-game chat works, how it might be abused by others and what they can do to help keep their children safe whilst using in-game chat. The link for the article and video is [HERE](#).

SafeToNet - free online safety app for 1 million parents

One of the most common questions I'm asked by parents when visiting schools is, "Is there an app that I can install on my child's devices to help protect them?". The answer is yes, but the best ones can be quite costly in terms of monthly subscriptions.

SafeToNet is a wonderful charitable organisation who have developed a world-leading cyber-safety app which they are giving away, free for life, to 1 million parents and carers that download the app before 1st Aug 2020.

This is a truly remarkable opportunity for parents/carers and I urge you to take a look at [THIS LINK](#) for further information.

Instagram - new anti-bullying features

Instagram have released a new update which includes some features which I think many young people will find welcome. I have looked at the available features on my own Instagram account and they're really simple to use:

- Manage multiple unwanted interactions - this is the ability to bulk delete negative comments and block or restrict multiple accounts that post negative comments.
- Highlight positive comments (coming soon) - positive comments can be pinned to the top of a post, meaning that anybody viewing the post will see positive comments first which may set a positive tone.
- Tags and mentions - these are often used to bully people so new controls are being released which allows the user to manage who can tag or mention them.

Take a look on the Instagram blog which explains the features [HERE](#).

New resource for parents - Taming Gaming

Andy Robertson is a family video game journalist and is well known for his clear, pragmatic advice about all things gaming. He has put together a fabulous new website for families, quote "This database is a unique way to find games for children, teenagers and young adults. Every game is presented for parents and carers to understand, to empower informed choice through understanding." Unquote.

The Taming Gaming website is [HERE](#).

Children now on TikTok nearly as much as YouTube

During the early stages of lockdown we saw a huge increase in the social media app, TikTok. Already popular it jumped straight to the number 1 spot on the download charts and stayed there for some time. The most popular activity amongst children and young people has always been YouTube, but it looks like TikTok is catching up.

There's a new report from Qustodio using data from 60,000 families with children 4-14. There's a variety of information in the report, for example average the average time spent per day on social media apps has increased dramatically by around 100% with TikTok being the main driver.

You can see the full report [HERE](#).

Video - keep it real online

I think a great many will have seen this video as it went viral last week, but just in case I'm sharing it here. This short video is tongue in cheek, designed to get parents to talk to their children about adult content. Some people won't like it, perhaps think it is inappropriate, but I think it is absolutely brilliant. WARNING: there is 'implied' nudity. Also if you click to the Home page there are some other resources.

See the video [HERE](#).

New X-Box parental control app

Microsoft have announced their new family settings app which is being released soon on Apple and Android devices, meaning that parents don't have to navigate through the X-Box settings, they can control the X-Box settings from their phone. This is a great move forward and I recommend you take a look at the article below.

To read more see [THIS](#) article from my good friend Wayne Denner.

New sexting study - Look at Me

Sexting is a significant concern but there has always been a need for new research. Created by my good friend Adrienne Katz with Aiman El Asam, this is the most up to date, comprehensive and useful study on sexting there has ever been (in my opinion). I haven't had a chance to go through in detail just yet but you can download the study below. It's quite lengthy, it needs to be, but even if you skim through and look at the executive summary and some of the main points you'll find it worthwhile.

Direct link to download the PDF [HERE](#)

Best Wishes,

Alan Mackenzie