

Offensive or illegal content

Older children

Older children may come across offensive online content by accident or they may seek it out with encouragement from peers. The following tips can help older children to manage online content.

- At this age children's internet use should still be closely monitored. To help with this try to keep the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.
- Be aware of how your child uses the internet and explore it with them. Explore their favourite sites and help them bookmark a list of 'Favourites'. Discuss the type of content that is and isn't okay online including violent or rude content. This will depend on your family standards.
- Teach your child that there are ways they can deal with disturbing material—they should not respond if they receive something inappropriate, and they should tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable or worried.
- Reassure your child that you will not deny them access to the internet if they report feeling uncomfortable or unsafe when online. This is a very real concern for children that may stop them from communicating with you openly.
- Teach your child how to close web pages that they don't like or to turn off the monitor and call a trusted adult.
- If your child is exposed to inappropriate content and appears distressed talk with them about it. If necessary seek professional support, including through the Cybersmart Online Helpline at www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx. The Cybersmart Online Helpline provides free, confidential online counselling for children and young people. Your child's school may also be able to provide assistance or guidance.
- Consider using filters, labels and safe zones to help manage your child's online access.
- Report content that you think may be prohibited to the ACMA's Online Hotline at www.acma.gov.au/hotline.

More information

The Cybersmart program provides a range of cybersafety materials for parents and their children. For more information, resources, advice and tips, visit the Cybersmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au. Encourage your children and teens to take a look around the website. If you have young children, you may like to explore it together to help them understand how to protect themselves against online risks and make the most of their experiences online.