

Offensive or illegal content

Young children

Young children may come across offensive or illegal online content by accident or with the encouragement of others, including older siblings. The following tips can help you to guide young children in their online activities.

- At this age children's internet use should 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. Bookmark a list of 'Favourites' you are comfortable with your child visiting and teach them how to access this list.
- Teach your child that not everything on the computer is safe to click on. It can be useful to make a rule for young children to check with an adult before clicking on new or unknown things.
- Teach your child that there are ways they can deal with material that worries or frightens them—they should not respond if they receive something inappropriate, and should immediately tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable.
- Teach your child how to close a web page or turn off a monitor and call a trusted adult if they are worried about what they see.
- 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. If of school age, 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.