eSafety newsletter

Herts for Learning

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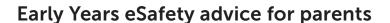## Early Years eSafety advice for parents

Two reports by TAP (Technology and Play) developed in collaboration between the Universities of Sheffield and Edinburgh, the BBC, Monteney Primary School and Childrens' media companies Dubit and Foundling Bird, are now available to download from: **http://bit.ly/eSafetyAdviceforParents** . The reports provide advice for parents and carers on how to stay safe on-line outside of school.

New apps: Fling and Flinch

Fling and **Flinch** are two new separate apps which might cause problems for children when they become more popular. **Fling** is a photo-sharing app with the strapline 'Send your Flings to the world and chat with those that follow you', encouraging users to communicate with strangers. iTunes rate Fling as suitable for children aged 12+ but on Android devices it is simply listed 'parental guidance'. Despite this, it is recommended that parents apply the 13+ rule to all social media apps and even then exercise caution, because children are known to take risks.

Flinch is an app by Oovoo, best known for their video conferencing software for up to twelve people. The new app is designed to 'make them smile' but as parents and carers know, children sometimes giggle when they see inappropriate things.

For further information, please visit **www.makemeflinch.com**

Users for Flinch must be aged 17+ according to Apple, yet Android recommend aged 3+. Again, parental discretion is essential and it is advised to adhere to the highest age rating.

What about eSafety for older children away from home?

Children are naturally inquisitive and it is important that parents and carers explain to children that they might see things online that could be upsetting.

Before a child attends a sleepover, it may be a good idea to have a discussion about what to do if faced with playing an inappropriate game, particularly late at night. Obviously the child saying 'no' is the best option, however also provide reassurance that if this doesn't work, collection can be arranged at any time.

Also, contacting a child's mobile phone service provider to ensure restrictions have been set up is a good idea. Despite these measures, there is no guarantee that a child will be shielded from inappropriate material or abuse, so always keep the channels of communication open for discussion.

Useful websites

www.internetmatters.org has the best 'how to' information for protecting children at home. Once the visitor has answered questions about their internet provider and devices, instructions can be downloaded detailing how to change settings using an interactive page. Help sheets can be e-mailed directly for future use. This website is also very useful for general eSafety information and should be the first port of call - in addition to reporting to CEOP or the police where necessary - when there is a concern that children might be accessing inappropriate material within the home.

www.parentinfo.org is a fantastic new website developed by CEOP (part of the National Crime Agency) and Parent Zone. Lots of useful information can be found on eSafety for parents and children.

Where can illegal content be reported?

The Internet Watch Foundation is the place to go if a request to remove illegal material from a website is unsuccessfl. Visit: **www.iwf.org.uk**

For further e-Safety advice visit: http://bit.ly/eSafetyAdviceforParents