

Online Safety Awareness



Benefits of Online Activity

- * Gain independence
- * Explore- try new things
- * Connect socially- sometimes easier online than in real world- develop social connections
- * Creativity
- * Express selves
- * Learn online- research

But as adults- we are always playing 'catch-up' learning about new technology, new online games and apps



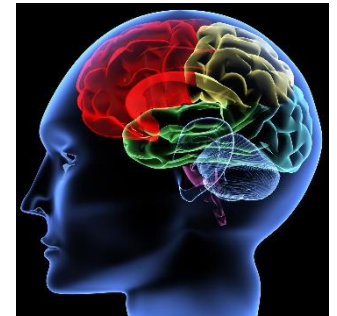
Child's Maturity and Needs evolve as they grow- implications for the way they interact online

Pre school

- Focus on Family
- Need for attachment
- Full support needed
- Under developed ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy
- Learning about appropriate behaviour/responses
- More vulnerable to violent, frightening, sexual content

Primary

- Focus shifts to outside family
- Develop learning, friendships; learning about appropriate behaviour/boundaries
- Supervised exploration
- Starting to distinguish between reality and fantasy
- Learning social rules-right/wrong
- Ability to inhibit/control impulses well below adult ability
- Vulnerable to violent, frightening, sexual content



The frontal lobes of a child's brain are not matured until 25yrs. Up to that time they do not perceive risks appropriately. Tanya Byron 2008

When people are online they lose their inhibitions due to anonymity, invisibility and imagination. Suller 2003

Risks posed during Online Activity

- * Online grooming – child sexual exploitation and radicalisation- leading to potential meeting in real world
- * Cyberbullying
- * Race Hate
- * Self harm- reduced self-esteem, sense of self worth, pro eating disorders
- * Viewing, producing, sharing and distributing indecent images/videos
- * Sexting
- * Trolling
- * Exposure to indecent images/videos and violent, disturbing content
- * Exposure to adult conversation and inappropriate information and violence
- * Online reputation
- * Privacy and identity theft
- * Physical vulnerability in real world



Protecting children and young people when using the internet

The protective factors are:

- * parental engagement in child's internet use
- * child's awareness of parental involvement
- * Use safe search engines such as Swiggle or Kids-search
- * education about the digital world and awareness
- * robust reporting procedures



Reporting concerns about Online Safety

- * Report concerns to CEOP using the report button on Think U Know site www.thinkuknow.co.uk



- * Can also report on www.ceop.police.uk site- not 24hours. In emergency contact Police 999
- * ChildLine: 0800 1111 (24hrs)
- * NSPCC: 0808 800 5000(24hrs)
- * Wirral Integrated Front Door: 606 2008 (Out of Hours 677-6556)
- * Report to Internet Watch Foundation if you see anything illegal-sexual imagery of children



Resources

- * CEOP 'Think U Know' site- has resources and advice to help them keep children safe online www.thinkuknow.co.uk Areas for different ages to learn about online safety: 4-7yrs, 8-10yrs, 11-13yrs and 14+yrs, parent zone.
- * Internet Matters: **Helping parents keep their children safe online** www.internetmatters.org Advice about how to activate simple parental controls



internet
matters.org