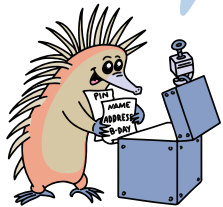


Creating a family tech agreement for 5- to 8-year-olds

Building understanding and good habits

Parents and carers play a major role in helping children develop digital literacy – the practical, social and emotional skills needed to navigate the online world in a safe and fun way.

I am responsible –
I protect my personal
information.



Wanda the echidna

I show respect –
I am kind and
caring to others.



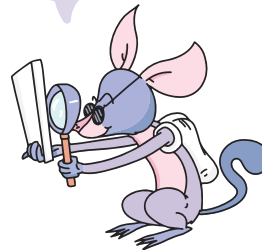
River the
sugar glider

I trust my feelings –
I ask for help when
something doesn't
feel right.



Dusty the frilled
neck lizard

I investigate –
I question what I see,
hear and do online.

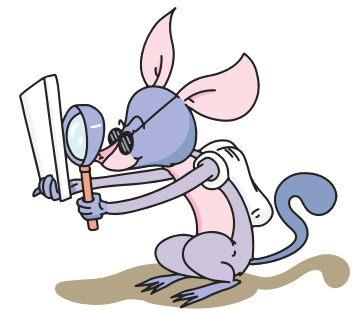


Billie the bilby

Use Wanda, River, Dusty and Billie's online safety tips to help you create a family tech agreement for your home.

Follow the guidance below and develop your own expectations for using devices like smartphones, tablets, computers, TVs and gaming consoles.

You can stick the statements on the attached poster, or write your own, to create your family tech agreement. Keep it in a place where everyone can see it, like on the fridge.



Start the conversation

Use the discussion points below to start a conversation with your child about respectful online behaviour in your home. Talk about each of the example agreement statements, what they mean, and how they relate to you and your child. Choose what to include in your family tech agreement, add other statements that you feel are missing, or write your own.

You can [check our tips for creating a tech agreement](#) to help you begin the conversation. For more advice on using technology in the home, you can also read [Good habits start young](#) and [Are they old enough?](#)

Discussion points	Example agreements
• Discuss what it means to take responsibility for common property in your home. For example, remembering to put a device on the charger or being careful not to damage a phone when using it.	I will look after the devices that I use.
• Talk about how devices might be shared during a play date or between siblings. How can your child ensure that everyone gets an equal chance to use a device? Think of some ideas together.	I will share devices with family or friends when I am using them.
• This statement highlights critical thinking and encourages children to question the source and purpose of the information. • Discuss how sometimes people pretend to be another person online and why they might do that. • Talk about how to identify a trusted source of information. How do they identify what is fact or fiction? • Read eSafety's advice on critical thinking for young people and families, and this article written by the eSafety Commissioner.	I will question what I see, hear or do online and think about whether it is true.
• Help your child understand that in-app purchases cost money. • Talk about how pop-ups can sometimes contain viruses and malware. • Read eSafety's advice about the risks and benefits of in-app purchasing and our parent's page on How to manage money in games.	I will check with [INSERT NAME] before I click on a pop-up or make an in-app purchase.

Discussion points	Example agreements
• Encourage your child to stop watching or listening to anything online that affects them negatively. • Suggest they ask for help and reassure them that they won't get into trouble. • Identify the trusted people in your child's life who they could ask for help. This may include a teacher at school if they want to chat to someone outside the family. They can also contact Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800). • Read Encourage your child to ask for help for more ways to support your child.	If I come across anything online that makes me feel uncomfortable, upset or unsafe, I will ask for help.
• Discuss the important topic of consent, including what consent means and why you need to get permission before taking a picture of someone else and posting it. • Talk about the types of images that are suitable to share online. What do they consider to be an appropriate or inappropriate image? Who might be able to see the posts online? • Explore Privacy and your child for more advice, and read this article about modelling consent and why it's important to discuss online safety with children when they are young.	I will ask permission before I take or share photos or videos of others.
• Discuss ways your child can show kindness or respect. For example, including others when they are gaming, rather than excluding them. See our advice on gaming safely, and gaming together as a family and with others. • Ask your child what they would do if they saw someone being bullied online. Who would they tell? • Ask whether they would say something mean about their friend to their face? How is this different to talking negatively about, or to a friend online? • Find out the best ways to support your child when they are being bullied online.	I will show kindness and respect to others online.
• It's important for your child to balance the benefits of being online with offline activities. • Discuss the activities your child enjoys – apart from spending time on-screen. • Talk about the type of content they see online and explain why it's good to look at different posts and stories. Explain the importance of choosing a variety of material – like eating a mix of different foods to maintain a balanced diet. When they are online, this might include a combination of both educational and entertaining content. • Read eSafety's Screen time advice for other ways to help your child achieve a healthy balance between their online and offline activities.	I will establish a good balance between screen time and spending time offline.

Discussion points	Example agreements
• Explore new apps and games together – this is a good way to stay across your child’s online interests and keep lines of communication open. • Ensure your child only downloads apps and games that you have approved. • Discuss the privacy settings attached to apps and games and explain that apps can be customised to ensure they are safe and set up according to your family’s needs. • See The eSafety Guide for information about age requirements, settings and safety checks.	I will ask permission before I download any new apps and games.
• Discuss what ‘personal information’ means and why it’s important to keep some details private, like a person’s full name, date of birth, contact information and passwords. • Talk about sharing passwords. Could you make a rule in your house to only share passwords with parents, for example? • What is appropriate and inappropriate to share? Ask your child if they would give their classmates the keys to your house or alarm code? Would they tell a stranger on the street what your home address is? • Explore the different ways you can help your child to stay in control of their privacy and information.	I will not share my passwords or personal information with anyone online.
• Unwanted contact is considered any type of online communication that your child finds unpleasant or upsetting, or that leads them into a situation where they may be unsafe. This can happen even if they initially welcomed the contact. It can come from strangers, online ‘friends’ your child has not met face-to-face, or from someone they know offline. • Think of some examples when your child might be chatting to people online. Discuss why they should only talk to people who they have met offline and actually know. • Be aware that a risk of socialising online is ‘child grooming’ which is when someone builds a relationship with a child in order to sexually abuse them. • Find out how to counter the risk of unwanted contact and child grooming.	I will only chat online with people I know - like my friends and family – even when I’m gaming.
• Decide together how much time your child will spend on their device per day or per week and add it to the poster in the extra space provided. For example, ‘I will only use my device for an hour each weekday’. • Ensure your child knows how to manage this time limit. Could they use an alarm to remind them? Are there parental controls on the device? • Find out how to use parental controls to manage online safety in your home.	I will respect the limits placed on my time online.

Add your own statements to the poster

Now you have discussed each statement, it's time to create your family tech agreement. Ask your child to cut and paste the agreement statements onto the tree on the poster, or write out your own and stick them on.



I will look after any devices that I use.

I will take turns with my family or friends when I am using a device.

I will question what I see, hear and do online and think about whether it is true.

I will check with _____ before I click on a pop-up or make an in-app purchase.

If I come across anything that makes me feel uncomfortable, upset or unsafe, I will ask for help.

I will not share my passwords or personal information with anyone online.

I will ask permission before I download any new apps and games.

I will show kindness and respect to others online.

I will only chat online with people I know - like my friends and family - even when I'm gaming.

I will have a good balance between screen time and spending time offline.

I will ask permission before I take or share photos or videos of others.

I will limit my time online. For example, 'I will use my device for _____ hour each weekday and _____ hours on the weekend.

Our family tech agreement

River the sugar glider

Wanda the echidna

Dusty the frilled neck lizard

Billie the bilby