

Digital Footprint

Children are growing up with technology. Sharing information online is as natural for most children as having a chat on the phone is for parents. We might not get it, but we can't avoid it. Whatever you think about children's enthusiasm for living their lives in a digital space, there are some things that are worth finding out about even if you don't want to join them in their Facebook frenzy.

What goes online stays online

Anything your child puts online will stay there forever. Those funny photos they posted when they were 13 could be seen by their future employers when they are 20.



Encourage your children to think about their Digital Footprint. Ask them if they really want photos of themselves available online for all time.

The online space is a public one

It's easy to think that when you are putting information online in the privacy of your living room it is only going to be seen by the people you want it to be seen by. That isn't a safe assumption.



Check your family's privacy settings especially on social networking sites and smartphones.

Your children's data

Lots of the sites that children visit ask them to register their details or create a user account. That data is stored and could be used for marketing purposes.



Agree with your child which email address they are going to use to register on sites. You could set up a family email address or get them to use yours.



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Are you taking steps to keep your private life private?

This term's challenge is all about Passwords. Who Know's Yours? We are asking parents to check their passwords...

Are they strong?

A good rule of thumb is to have a password with 8 characters including a mix of upper and lower case letters and numbers.

Who knows them?

We know children can often remember passwords better than their parents but if you have shared yours with them it gives them access to anything from online shopping to over 18 certificate movies.

Are they set on all devices?

They should be set on computers, phones, games consoles and TV's.

Remember kids can access the internet through a wide range of devices including ipods and games consoles – and if they can access the internet, they can access almost anything.



The Digital Footprint challenge is to see how long it takes your family to guess each other's passwords:

✓ Check ✓ Change ✓ Choose

Just for fun, get the family to see how long it takes them to guess each other's passwords. Less than 5 minutes and it really is time to check, change and choose!