Introduction
Risks
Advice
2023
Online Safety
For parents and carers
Reporting
Childnet
UK Safer Internet Centre
Conversation Starters
Our School

What does your child love doing online? What services and devices do they use?

The online world can be exciting and inspiring. It has lots of opportunities to offer young people. It is important to manage and minimise the associated risks.

RISKS

Conduct

Online behaviour & sharing

Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and others, and how other people may perceive them because of what they say and do online.

It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information, photos and videos that they may have posted.

When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information (that could identify who they are) safe and not share it with strangers.

Content

What children see online

Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social media, online games, streams and websites.

Live comments and chats alongside other content including videos, streams and games can be hurtful, harmful or unreliable.

It's important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true or written with a bias. Photos and videos can also be edited or inaccurate.

Contact

Online communication

It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them.

If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person (including, but not limited to, a request to meet up or a request for images/videos), it's vital that you report it to the police via:
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (www.ceop.police.uk).

CEOP REPORT
ceop.police.uk

Online bullying

Also known as 'cyberbullying' - takes place online or using technology.

Cyberbullying can happen in many different ways including unkind messages or comments, the sharing of embarassing photos or exclusion from group chats.

Children need to understand that their online actions can be just as hurtful as offline actions and that seeking to deliberately hurt or upset someone is always unacceptable.

Nudes and sexting

Sexting is taking and sharing a nude, partially nude or sexually explicit image or video.

If the person in the image is under-18 then it **breaks the law**. The Protection of Children Act states that it is illegal to create, distribute or possess an indecent image of a child, including images or videos taken by the child themselves (e.g. selfies).

The police take a common sense approach and are not seeking to criminalise young people, but do have a duty of care if asked to investigate.

In the online world, content can get very far, very quickly and young people may lose control of who else sees their image. Knowing an image has been seen by others can be very difficult and traumatic for a young person to experience.

Sexting is a risk even for younger children. A child with access to a device, who can take a photo and send it on, may not understand the possible consequences and just think they're being funny.

ADVICE

Advice on online contact and grooming

Discuss online friendship with your child - make sure they understand that a person they've never met face-to-face is still a stranger. Discuss what kinds of information they should avoid sharing with strangers.

Ensure they know they can come to you if they have any worries or concerns.

If you have an suspicions whatsoever about someone who is in contact with your child online then report it to CEOP.

You will be shown how to report to CEOP later in this presentation.

Advice on online bullying

Discuss online bullying with your child - teach the importance of online respect and make sure they know they can talk to you if they have any worries or concerns.

If they are a victim of this type of behaviour:

- **Do** save the evidence
- **Do** report to your school/ the police
- **Do** use online tools to report and block the perpetrator.

Advice on nudes and sexting

Discuss sexting with your child - ensure they know that once this kind of content gets out there, it's very difficult to get it back and the consequences of this can be very upsetting.

Make sure they know they can talk to you if they have any concerns or worries.
Try to remain reassuring and non-judgemental.

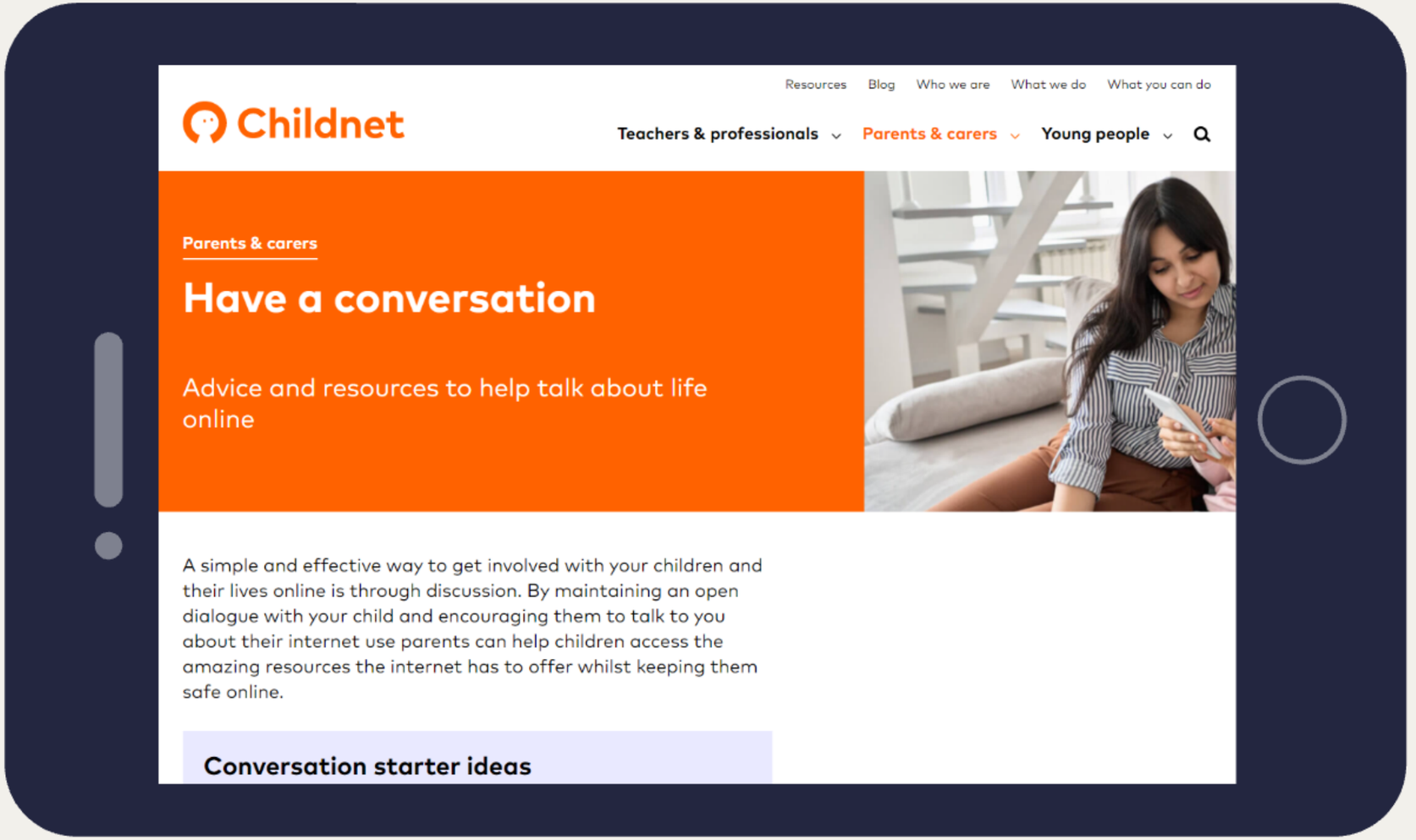
With younger children, discuss which parts of their body should be kept private.

Do seek advice from your child's school if you need further support.

Do report to the Police or CEOP if you have any suspicions about the involvement of an adult or think you child has been coerced.

An open and honest dialogue with your child is absolutely key.

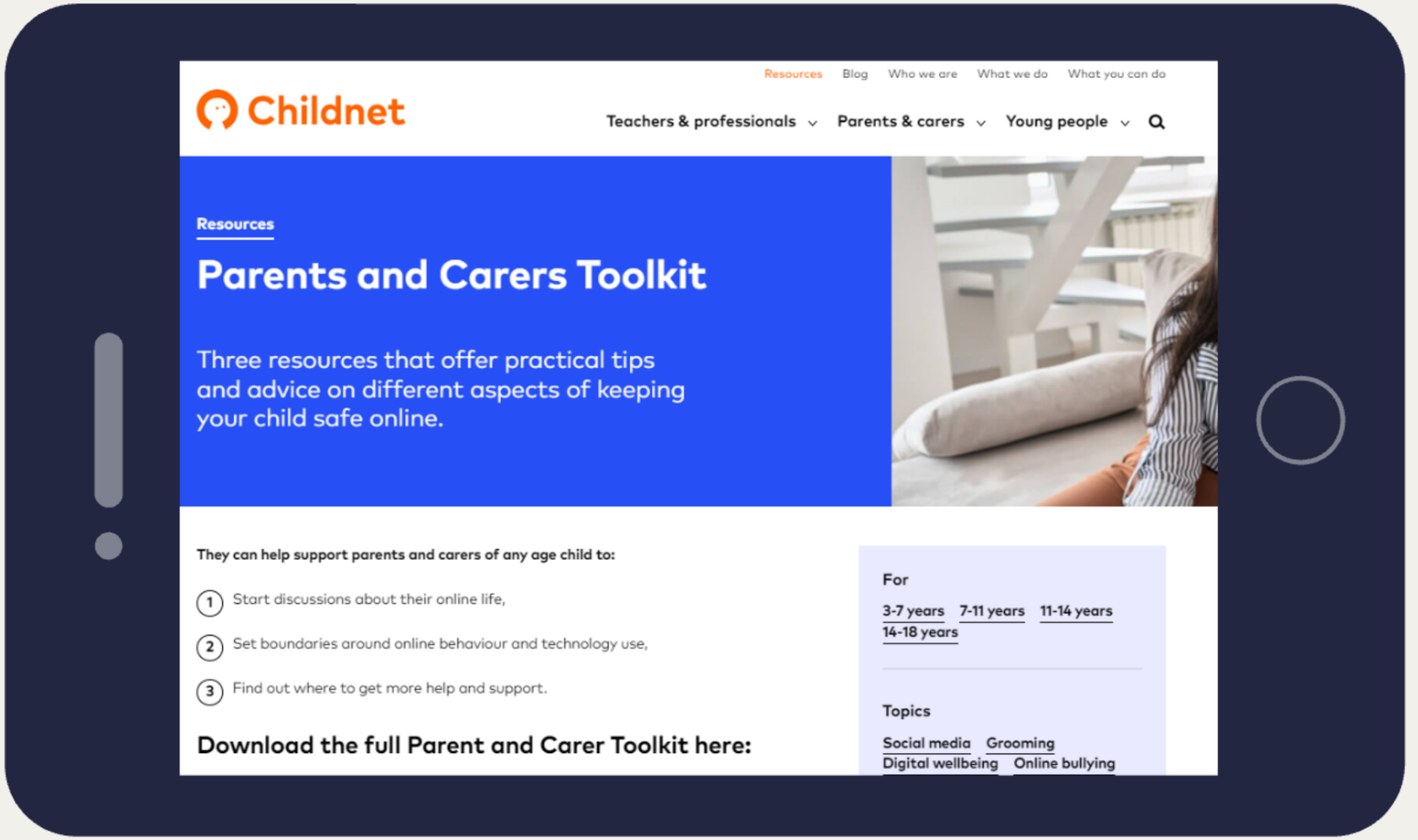
Talk to them about their internet use and let them know they can talk to you.



childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation

Consider setting a family agreement to open discussion.

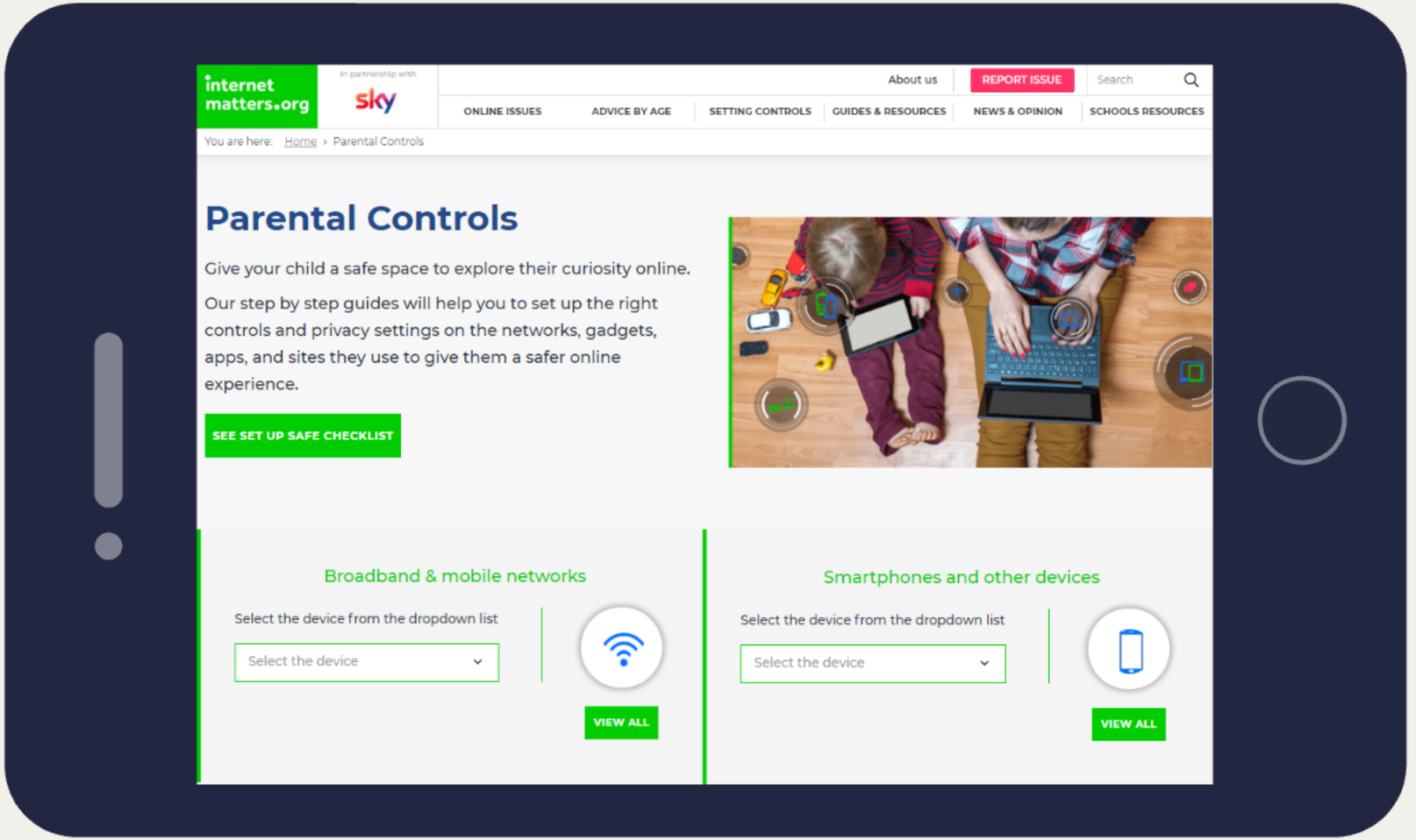
Establish boundaries and your expectations as a family.



childnet.com/toolkit

Filtering software and settings can help block unwanted content.

Look at filters on individual devices and from mobile & internet providers



internetmatters.org/parental-controls/

CONVERSATION STARTERS