How can I keep my child safe online?

Create a **user** for your child on the computer they use at home.
Investigate and use the Parent Controls.

Bookmark safe sites (Add to **Favourites**) or make shortcuts for your child to use. This stops them mis-typing sites and inadvertently accessing unsuitable material.

Keep an eye on you child's **online diet** as you would their TV diet!

Help your child choose a **nickname** to use online. Explain that we don't give out our real name online and if anyone asks for it they should come and tell you to check if they can give information out.

Check out **sites** that give information for parents such as CEOP (www.thinkuknow.co.uk) and Childnet (www.childnet-int.org)

Ask your child not to click on pop-ups and adverts as well as not opening emails and attachments from people they don't know.

Play alongside your child and '**friend**' them in any social networking sites they use.

Keep the computer in a **public** area of the house.

Check out any games machines, handhelds, mobile technologies to see if there are any **parent controls**. For example iTunes can be set to block Apps for 17+

Whatever sites or services your child wants to join make sure you check out and **join yourself** if need be. Always use a **family email address** or your own email address when subscribing.

Check the **History** and **Favourites** on a regular basis. Let your child know that you will be doing this.

Check you child has the privacy settings set on any services they join. Set to 'Friends only' or a similar option.

Encourage only **real friends** as IM (Instant Messaging) friends. Ask your child to check with you before adding new friends.

Keep **communicating** and ask about their online life in the same way you ask about their real life.