



Keeping Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children Safe Online

There are many positives for deaf young people when using social media. The Deaf and Hearing Impairment Team have produced guidance entitled 'Digital Safety- Raising a Deaf Child' on the website as well as a video of signs relating to digital safety.

Digital platforms use many symbols, and knowing what these mean and the British Sign Language equivalent is really important if we are to have meaningful conversations with our deaf young people.

The National Deaf Children's Society have some excellent resources aimed at deaf and hearing impaired children and young people. www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/how-to-be-safe-and-smart-online

Cyber bullying is explained by The Buzz, website for deaf young people and includes videos using BSL to recreate scenarios, visit www.buzz.org.uk/cyberbullying

Childline have 'Deaf Zone' specifically designed to support deaf and hearing impaired young people. There are videos giving advice about online bullying and how to stay safe, including a service to video call for advice. www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/deaf-zone/

Top Tips

- Talk to a family member or trusted adult if you are worried about something
- Don't give out personal information
- Check privacy settings
- Think before you post something, is it harmful to you or other people?
- Don't believe everything you read online
- Remember to ask permission to share information

There are numerous other useful websites with safety advice for children, parents and carers.

'Think u know' is part of the National Crime Agency CEOP Command. They have short 15 minute activities to complete with your child or young person at home across all age ranges from 3- 16 during the Covid 19 pandemic.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets

Twinkl have some useful resources and activities you can do with young people to raise their awareness of safety, including prompt cards, a quiz, powerpoints and posters. See the website www.twinkl.co.uk.