

Get to Know Gaming – Data and ID

Audio transcript

Our final topic is all about keeping your data and ID safe. It's just part of operating in the digital world as we're all getting used to doing now, but there are some things that you may not know about yet.

When chatting online, children sometimes give away personal information about themselves, and this might be their social media account, it might be their birthday, or where they live, and this information can be used or mined by organisations or people, and this can lead to issues for your child now or maybe in the future. Sometimes this can result in something called identity theft, which is a real problem.

ID theft is a problem in games like it is in other areas of online life, but you can do a few things about it. A really good thing to do is to make sure that your child's account is set up with their age, because this means that the chat functions in games can be tailored to restrict the things that they can say that's appropriate to their age and keeps their identity secure.

Identity theft can sound frightening, but there are things you can do to help your child. You can have conversations with them about fraud activity and who might be trying to take advantage of them, and help them develop their critical thinking skills.

Talk to them about never sharing personal information online, and you can also set boundaries on those devices to prevent that personal information sharing. Remind your child what they post online can stay there for a very long time and be seen by lots of people.

All of this may seem complex, but remember, gaming is a big part of many kids lives. As well as being fun, they are actually learning important skills through games which can help set them up for their future success.

To recap, these are the top tips from the three issues we've covered.

First, get to know the game ratings, talk to your children about what the games involve, and the importance of knowing who they're talking to.

Next, set passwords and limits to any credit cards linked to their games. Make sure they understand the links between online spending and real world money, and never to accept money online from anyone.

Lastly, explain the risks of sharing financial and personal information, not just for them, but their family and friends too.

Have a look at the other content here on our hub, where there's loads more to help you and your kids have fun safely. Gaming is opening up a world of opportunity. It's time you are in control.

Oh, and next time your kids are playing, why not ask to have a go? You'll learn a lot and you might even enjoy it.