

Online safety is everyone's business

Foster care families can be big and complicated! Carers, biological parents and family members, grandparents, foster siblings, our grown-up kids, respite carers, caseworkers all have a role to play in online safety.

Working together helps us all set fair and consistent rules and boundaries for our kids. Fair rules are more likely to be followed.

By demonstrating our own good behaviours, we can set a great example for our kids too.



Working as a family

Working together on a family tech agreement can empower young people. Negotiation and discussion helps the rules feel valid and fair.

“What I have found very useful is to make an agreement with the children. They know what to expect.” - **Jacques, carer.**

Can you involve the wider family? That might include grandparents, biological family members, respite carers, your grown-up kids, and others. How can we all work together?

Schools often cover online safety topics. But children and young people who have a lot to deal with might not take in the information. Some young people have very advanced knowledge. Others have missed the basics, and don't know about hacking, grooming or identity theft.

Working as family helps young people build their knowledge and stay safe.



Involving case workers and specialists

Getting everyone in the care team involved in online safety helps with consistency and support. Counsellors and behavioural specialists can have great ideas, as can teachers and caseworkers. Remember, we're all a team.

For young people with specific challenges, such as sexually harmful behaviours, specialist support is needed. We need to be mindful of how internet use affects these behaviours, without cutting them off.

Online safety should be included in your child's case plan.

“I have a really good team behind me. The agency IT team, the caseworker, case manager, her behavioural specialist, they're all incredible and I rely on them a lot.”
- **Taneisha, carer.**

