

Online safety at home:

Carre's information for parents and carers



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Keeping Safe online: Live Streaming

In this last of these publications for parents we will explore how we are best able to support young people with appropriate use of live streaming and what do to if concerns are raised. Live streaming is now a very popular feature of many apps and platforms, and all you need to livestream is an internet enabled device like a laptop or a smart phone.

What is Live Streaming?

Live streaming technology lets you watch, create and share videos in real time, a bit like live TV. All you need to be able to live stream is an internet enabled device, like a smart phone or tablet, and a platform (such as a website or app) to live stream from.

The article outlines how you are able to make informed decisions about your child's use of different online livestreaming platforms and explores what do if you needed to report an issue about livestreaming. We know that technology is hugely valuable for education as well as keeping young people connected. However it's important we all consider how we can help keep young people safer online during this lockdown, and always. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer. We hope you find this a useful and timely resource in the current remote learning environment.



Live Streaming

What is Live Streaming?

Current popular live streaming apps include Facebook Live, Instagram Live stories, Twitch TV (often used by the gaming community), House Party and Tik Tok. Unlike pre-recorded videos that can be cut and edited, live streaming is just that - live and uncensored.

Some live streams can be private. For example, video conferencing, like Skype or Zoom, uses live streaming technology to allow you to talk to people you have invited. To make sure they stay private, they should be password protected and passwords shouldn't be shared with people you don't know.

Some live streams are public and might be watched by hundreds or even thousands of people.

Viewers can comment and interact live by posting messages that appear beside the live stream. They can also share emojis such as hearts, and gifts such as coins which appear on the screen.

Why is live streaming popular?

The inspiration to live stream comes from reality TV and YouTube, where you can broadcast anything you are doing, right there in the moment, all across the world. Live streaming is appealing to children and young people. It gives them a chance to be a creator, a presenter and to be seen and heard by an audience and connect to their favourite celebrities.

Many live streamers love the sense of being 'in the moment' and interacting with family, friends, or even a global audience. From a birthday message to loved ones, to a topical Q and A or a talent showcase, there are endless opportunities to broadcast fun, important, or exciting moments live.

Viewing live streams lets children and young people connect with their own favourite live streamers. They share comments with other viewers and even interact directly with celebrities.

When used in positive way, live streaming is an excellent tool for children and young people to create identity and develop confidence and communication skills.

Children and young people enjoy getting attention and praise, and self-expression is important for development. Sharing something and getting positive feedback from others can be the ultimate confidence boost and build their self-esteem.

Live streaming also allows children and young people to connect with people with similar interests, views and going through similar experiences. This can help some young people feel less socially isolated.

Live streamers can also receive financial rewards, which is an exciting goal for some young people. For example, audiences can gift virtual coins which can be turned into money.

How you can help your child stay safe whilst Live Streaming: Part 4 –

There are some practical steps you can take to help keep your child safe if they are using an app or website with a live streaming function.

Talk to them. The best way you can protect your child is to talk to them. Not just once, but have ongoing conversations as part of your family life. Having these discussions little and often is more effective than one big chat.

Talking to your child about the positive aspects of being online and not just the risks will help your child to talk more openly about their internet use, including anything that worries them.

Use devices in public spaces. As young people grow up, they often seek more privacy and autonomy in both their offline and online world. Younger children should be closely supervised by an adult and live streaming should not take place in a private space, like the bedroom or bathroom.

Practise and prepare. Advise them to practise and prepare before they go live. This will minimise the risk of errors, or off-script activity.

Privacy and safety settings. Go through the privacy and safety settings with your child. With younger children make sure only trusted friends and family they know offline can view their online profiles and videos.

Be wary of requests to chat in private. People who are seeking to harm children may try and move them from a public area of an app to a private area to have conversations that are likely to be less moderated. Remind your child to be wary of people they meet online who want to chat to them in private, away way from other people.

Support and Reporting. It's really important to make sure your child knows where to go for support if they need it, and how to report concerns. Remind them that they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if they are worried. Support them to identify trusted sources and organisations on the internet such as Brook, The Mix and Childline.

Talk to them about how to report directly to social media platforms or CEOP if they're concerned about contact from an adult.

More information?

- Why not watch this video from Think You Know about Live Streaming?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S5cFxoTATs&feature=emb_logo

- Remember - If you are worried that a child is being groomed on any online platform you should seek support. You can contact your local police by calling 101. If you believe a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999.
- If you would like to talk to a professional about any other online concerns, you can call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

More information at: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>

<https://www.brook.org.uk/topics/staying-safe-online/>