



Establishing a Secure Online Environment: 4 Ways to Keep Children Safe Online

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Is the Online World Full of Risks?

With the widespread use and development of new online technologies, it has brought us a lot of conveniences and new ways of life. However, the online world is also filled with misinformation, fake news, and fraudsters, which aggravates the chance of online risks. In recent years, there have been numerous cases of children becoming victims of online scams, with the youngest victim being only 7 years old. Therefore, we should pay early attention to prevent 'young children falling prey to online scams' and 'the diversified of online risks'.

Online Risks

1. Contact with strangers

Currently, the curriculum in kindergartens and primary schools lacks comprehensive online safety education, children may not be aware of the potential cyber dangers. On the other hand, children are still developing their cognitive ability to think and reason. Their ability to protect themselves from misinformation or scammers are relatively lower.

2. Harmful content

Harmful information on the internet often lurks in seemingly healthy information or videos. If parents are not careful, they may mistakenly believe that their children are browsing harmless information, which can have profound impact on the children.

3. In-game purchases causing financial losses

Online games on mobile phones are always popular among children. They usually operate on a 'free first, pay later' basis. The games also create 'aesthetic effects', 'level upgrades', and 'sense of success for passing levels' that are exclusive for players after topping-up. With the rise of using electronic currency and e-wallets, it is easy to pay with a smartphone. This increases the risk of children wrongfully using electronic payment for purchases. From various cases, losses can range from tens of dollars to thousands or even tens thousands of dollars.

How to protect children from online risk?

1. Play the role as an identifier

- Accompany the children when watching various types of information and videos
- Take up the role as an identifier to identify and filter out harmful online information

2. Remind children to protect themselves

- Raise the children's awareness on the possible internet dangers
- Pay attention to children's interactions with others during online

3. Learn online safety skills

- Learn different online safety skills, such as parental control settings to establish a security network for children's internet use

4. Establish good online habits

- Establish good habits for using the internet, such as set up daily using time

We hope that parents and children can enjoy the convenience and benefits brought by the internet in a healthy and safe way!