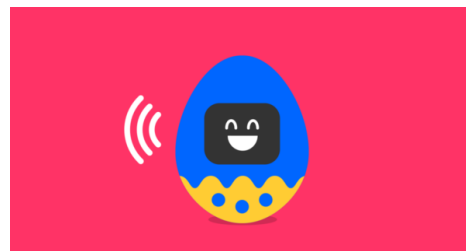


Bought your child a phone, console or other smart device?

Set it up before you wrap it to ensure it is updated so that they can have fun without spending hours downloading updates. While you are setting it up, don't forget to set the parental controls!



Parental controls can let you:

- Plan what time of day and for how long they can go online
- Prevent children from downloading apps they are too young for
- Put blocks or filters to manage the content they can see
- Manage different users and the content each has access to
- Prevent or manage in-app purchases

Find out more at www.nspcc.org.uk



Loot boxes? What are they?

Many games, such as Fortnite, include loot boxes, which users can purchase using real money. Loot boxes contain virtual items that can be used within the game. Inside the box are randomised items that can alter and improve the players experience. Children enjoy loot boxes as they are exciting and give the chance of winning big!

What is the problem with loot boxes?

With the chance of winning big, there have been reports of children racking up bills of up to £3000 on in-app purchases. Also, early research shows that it could lead to problems with gambling. Indeed, in September 2019 MPs called for loot boxes to be regulated under gambling law and ban their sale to children.



Can I help my child use loot boxes safely?

The first step is to have a conversation. Approach it with openness and good faith – not finger-pointing and distrust. Ask you children about the games they play, if these have loot boxes and discuss whether they have bought these themselves. Make sure your child clearly understands that:

- loot boxes cost real money, even if they are purchased with an in-game currency
- they may be designed to encourage repeat-purchases
- you expect them to respect any rules you set about money and responsibility

Find out more including the 11 things to know about loot boxes at www.saferinternet.org.uk

About to buy a Smart Toy? Here are 4 things to consider first

- Does the toy interact with your child and other devices?
- Does the toy require your child's personal information?
- Does it have a camera?
- Does it require a monthly subscription to access new content?

More info at www.internetmatters.org