

Online Safety Agreement

Early learning services

Educator instructions

An **Online Safety Agreement** is a set of rules to keep children and adults safe while using digital technology at your early learning service. When created in collaboration with children, the agreement is a great opportunity to develop their critical thinking and self-regulation skills, encouraging them to build good habits around technology.

Use the agreement to align with your early learning service rules, then display it in a prominent space. Review the agreement throughout the year to make sure it's up to date with the issues, experiences and technologies at your early learning service.

Aim: To create a simple set of rules for your early learning service in collaboration with your children. The agreement should be easy-to-understand and highly visible in the room or learning area. The agreement can be aligned with other rules at your early learning service.



Step 1: Start the chat

When introducing the concept of rules about the use of technology you may like to first read our online safety picture book **Swoosh, Glide and Rule number 5**, or listen to and sing our online safety song **My Family Rules** – find them in eSafety's [Early Years resources](#).

When you have read the book and listened to the song, get together for circle or mat time and have a discussion about these topics:

- The rules we have in our room to keep us safe and why they are important.
- The rules we have at home to keep us safe and why they are important.
- What rules do we need so that we can use technology safely in our room?



Some rule suggestions you may create with the class include:

- I will ask before I use a device.
- I will follow our rules when I use technology.
- I will take turns and use kind words when I use a device.
- I will ask before I take a photo of anyone.
- I will tell my teacher if I see something that makes me feel sad when I use a device.

eSafety's [Online safety teaching posters](#) can be used during the discussion to support the important conversations which will occur as you develop this agreement.

Step 2: Create an agreement

Make one of your free play experiences an opportunity for children to draw, paint, dramatise or record a rule for technology use in your learning space – then display them for all to see.

A fun activity for educators and a small group of children to do together is the [Technology Plan game](#) on the Playing IT Safe website. This play-based activity is a great opportunity to engage more deeply with children about rules for the use of technology in the classroom and at home. For instructions on how to use the game, look at [Create a pre-school technology plan](#).

Step 3: Continue the chat

Educators tell us that online safety incidents are most likely to occur at home, so it's important to share the learning and discussions you have at your service with your families.

A simple way to continue the chat is by sharing your Online Safety Agreement with families, through your newsletter or online parent communication tool.

You can also share a copy of eSafety's [Family Tech Agreement](#) which was developed with ABC Kids Play School, so families can fill it in together and put it up in a shared space at home for everyone to see. You may like to put yours on the fridge!