10 Tips to teach your child to **game safe**

Online games can expose your kids to more than you think.
Teach Your Child to **Game Safe**.

- Have regular conversations about games they are playing and the people they are playing with; set clear boundaries, and even write them down.

- Depending on the age of your child, you may want them to check with you before playing new games or accepting a friend request. For children under the age of 10, we recommend their online activities be supervised by a parent or safe adult.

- Many children do not reach out for support because they are afraid their gaming devices will be taken away. Make sure your child knows they will not be in trouble if they ask you for help.

- Remind your child that online-friends are not necessarily who they say they are. When a child decides to chat privately or meet a gaming friend in person, they may consider them to be a friend, as they have been playing together for a while. Reaffirm the notion that anyone they do not know from real life is still considered a stranger.

- Advise your child they should not be switching platforms and/or add gaming friends to social media.

- Outline which types of information should not be shared. e.g.: age, location, personal information, pictures.

- Teach your child to never accept gifts online such as money, gift cards, cheat codes or admin codes from gaming friends.

- Explain that they should never meet in person with someone they have met in a game without a parent or guardian present.

- Create a safety plan with your child outlining what to do if someone asks them to send sexual images or sends sexual materials to them: stop engaging in conversation, tell you or other trusted adults (define who is a trusted adult), report, and block.

- If you notice your child is engaging in risky behaviour online, have a conversation with them about why this behaviour is unsafe and work together to find a safer solution.