FAMILY

online safety checklist

A one-off setup, a few family conversations, and a quick check each school term. Tick as you go. Pages 3 and 4 show how to do each step.

Devices and apps: set up once

- [ ] Screen Time (iPhone, iPad) or Google Family Link (Android) is set up on each child's device.
- [ ] New apps and in-app purchases need my approval.
- [ ] Every device has a PIN or passcode.
- [ ] Location is turned off for the camera, and location sharing is off or limited to family.
- [ ] Game and app accounts are set to private, with chat from strangers turned off.
- [ ] I've checked the age rating of each app and game.

Family conversations

- [ ] My child knows they won't be in trouble for telling me about something online.
- [ ] We've talked about happy surprises versus worried secrets: secrets that worry them always get told.
- [ ] We've learned the Koala Code: keep your name and school private, ask before you click, tell a grown-up if something feels weird.
- [ ] We've chosen a family safe word, and everyone who picks the kids up knows it.
- [ ] We've talked about AI apps: what they're good for, and never typing in names, school, photos or passwords.
- [ ] We've agreed on family tech rules (eSafety has a family tech agreement to help).

Photos and sharing

- [ ] Before posting, I check for uniforms, house numbers, street signs and car rego.
- [ ] I share photos of my kids privately with family, not publicly.

Under 16? Know the rules

- [ ] I know most big social media platforms aren't allowed for under-16s in Australia, but games and messaging apps still are, so chat settings still matter.

Every school term

- [ ] Look through installed apps together and remove the ones no longer used.
- [ ] Check app permissions: camera, microphone, contacts and location.
- [ ] Check privacy settings are still on after updates.
- [ ] Ask: "What's new in your games and apps? Has anything online worried you?"
- [ ] Remind everyone of the family safe word.

If something happens

1. Stay calm and thank your child for telling you.
2. Take screenshots of messages, usernames and links before blocking.
3. Block and report the account in the app or game.
4. Serious cyberbullying or harmful content: report to eSafety at esafety.gov.au/report.
5. Suspected grooming or sexual extortion: report to the ACCCE at accce.gov.au/report.
6. A child in danger right now: call 000.

Helpful links and numbers

eSafety advice for parents and carers	**esafety.gov.au/parents**
Report online harm to eSafety	**esafety.gov.au/report**
Report grooming or sexual extortion (AFP-led ACCCE)	**accce.gov.au/report**
Kids Helpline, free and 24/7 for ages 5 to 25	**1800 55 1800**
Emergency	**000**

Our family safe word is kept: somewhere private at home, never online.

How to do each step

Can't find a setting? Open **Settings** and type a word like "passcode", "update" or "location" into the search box at the top. Menus differ between phones and change with updates.

Set up parental controls

Approve apps, set time limits and filter content from your own phone.

iPhone or iPad: Screen Time

1. Set up **Family Sharing** and give your child their own Child Account.
2. On your phone: **Settings**, then **Screen Time**.
3. Under Family, tap your child's name and follow the steps.

Android: Google Family Link

1. Install the free **Family Link** app on your phone.
2. On your child's phone: **Settings**, **Google**, **Parental controls** (newer phones: Settings, Parental controls).
3. Sign in with your own Google account and follow the steps.

Make new apps and purchases need your OK

iPhone or iPad

1. **Settings**, then **Family**, then your child's name.
2. **Apps & Websites**, then **Restrictions**.
3. **Ask to Buy**: turn on **Require Purchase Approval**.

Android

1. Open **Family Link** and choose your child.
2. Tap **Controls**.
3. Set Google Play approvals and content ratings.

Put a PIN on every device

iPhone or iPad

1. **Settings**, **Face ID & Passcode**, **Turn Passcode On**.

Android

1. **Settings**, search **Screen lock**, choose **PIN**.

Turn off location in the camera

Photos can store exactly where they were taken.

iPhone or iPad

1. **Settings**, **Privacy & Security**.
2. **Location Services**, **Camera**.
3. Choose **Never**.

Android

1. Open the **Camera** app and tap the settings cog.
2. Turn off **Location tags** or **Save location** (names differ).

Make game accounts private and turn off stranger chat

Stops people your child doesn't know from contacting them.

1. In the game or app, open **Settings**.
2. Look for **Privacy**, **Safety** or **Parental controls**.
3. Set the account to private and chat to friends only, or off.

Step-by-step guides for Roblox, Minecraft, Fortnite and more: **The eSafety Guide** at esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide. Use your child's real age at setup so the right protections switch on.

Check age ratings

Look for the age rating on the app's page in the App Store or Google Play before downloading. The eSafety Guide explains what popular apps are used for.

Check app permissions each term

iPhone or iPad

1. **Settings**, **Privacy & Security**.
2. Tap **Camera**, **Microphone**, **Contacts** or **Location Services**.
3. Switch off apps that don't need it.

Android

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Search **Permission manager**.
3. Tap each one and switch off apps that don't need it.

Take screenshots (before you block)

iPhone or iPad

Press the side button and volume-up together. With a Home button: Home and the side button.

Android

Press the power button and volume-down together.

Make family tech rules

eSafety has free family tech agreements for different ages: esafety.gov.au/parents/resources/family-tech-agreement. Make the rules together, and put them on the fridge.