

Quick guide to live streaming



What is live streaming?

Live streaming is technology that lets you watch, create and share videos in real time, a bit like live TV. All you need to be able to live stream is an internet enabled device, like a smart phone or tablet, and a platform (such as a website or app) to live stream from.

What are the risks?

- **Content.** Children could be exposed to age inappropriate content, including sexual or violent content.
- **Offensive comments.** If the live stream is public, viewers may be able to leave negative or inappropriate comments.
- **Live streaming is 'in the moment'.** This increases the risk of children and young people acting on impulse, and saying or doing something they'd be less likely to do offline.
- **Digital footprints.** If a live streamer makes a mistake, shares personal details, or broadcasts offensive or inappropriate material, they are doing so in public.
- **Inappropriate contact.** People seeking to harm children may attempt to trick them into engaging in sexual activity, flatter them with positive comments or gifts, or make threats to try to force them to do things they don't want to do.

Keeping your child safe

- **Talk to them.** The best way you can protect your child is to talk with them about online life. And not just once: make this an ongoing conversation as part of your family life.
- **Use devices in public spaces.** Younger children should be closely supervised by an adult and live streaming should not take place in a private space, like the bedroom or bathroom.
- **Practice and prepare.** Advise children to practice and prepare before they go live. This will minimise the risk of errors or off-script activity.
- **Privacy and safety settings.** Go through the privacy and safety settings together with your child. Make sure only trusted friends and family they know offline can view their online profiles and videos.
- **Be wary of requests to chat in private.** Remind your child to be wary of people they meet online who want to chat to them in private, away from other people.
- **Support and Reporting.** It's really important that your child knows how to get support. Remind them that they can always speak to you or another adult they trust if they have any worries. Talk to them about how to report to social media platforms or CEOP if they're concerned about contact from an adult.

For more information visit

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming