# Protecting your children from abuse online-Taken from thinkuknow website

Controls are not a single solution to staying safe online; talking to your children and encouraging responsible behaviour is critical. However, controls are a vital first step to helping to protect your child online, and here seven simple things you can do to use them effectively:

1. Set up home broadband parental controls and make use of controls on your home broadband.

2. Set controls on your search engine; encourage your child to always use child-friendly search engines, and activate and lock the safe search settings on the browsers and platforms they use.

3. Make sure every device is protected. Controls should be installed on every device your child uses, such as their mobile phone, tablet and games consoles (both home and handheld).

4. Use privacy settings.  Activate the safety measures offered by different sites; social networking sites like Facebook have privacy settings that will help prevent your child seeing unsuitable advertising or sharing too much with other people.

5. Block pop-ups. If you’re worried about your children accessing inappropriate content though accidentally clicking on adverts in pop-ups, follow the advice from BBC Webwise on how to stop these.

6. Find good sites and agree on them as a family. By talking to your child about their interests you can help them find suitable sites to visit and apps to use. Review these sites as they get older.

7. Manage their use and access. Children may be very worried that your response to a problem will be to take away their internet access.  Whilst this may be an appropriate response in some cases, the threat may be a barrier for a child who needs help.  Be aware of this when talking to them about their internet use, and reassure them that they can talk to you or a trusted adult whenever they need to.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/