

Internet Safety & Digital Piracy

Understanding the risks for children



The Issue

If your child streams illegal content online, it can expose them to cyber threats, disturbing pop-ups and harmful content

It's no longer just dodgy websites that pose these dangers, these risks can also take place on streaming devices, mobile apps and connected TVs



The Risks

1 Exposure to inappropriate material

"I do worry about the pop ups and unsuitable content"

Mumsnet user

- ✗ Pirated content comes with no parental controls to protect your family
- ✗ Explicit adverts can pop-up unsolicited
- ✗ Fully-loaded streaming devices can come installed with porn apps

- ✗ Streaming pirated content puts your family devices at direct risk of malware infection
- ✗ Criminals behind online piracy make money by installing spam ads and viruses
- ✗ Malicious software on your devices puts you at risk of identity theft and fraud

"Our laptop picked up so many viruses that it no longer works."

Mumsnet user

2 Personal security & devices

- ✗ Families should understand the consequences of watching pirated content
- ✗ Streaming and downloading pirated content is illegal
- ✗ The viewer, the person sharing the stream or anyone sharing links to it are all breaking the law

3 Legal risks

"Many [children and parents] do not consider it illegal or dangerous."

Mumsnet user

Three ways to keep your children safe

1 Set parental controls

Apply parental controls to any internet-connected device used to stream content

Like computers, your connected television should have the ability to restrict access to internet browsing



2 Understand streaming services

The risks to children when they stream content online can be minimised if done safely

Stick to legitimate services you trust on your TV and on the web and activate the required parental control



3 Set online boundaries

Find out what your child likes to do online and agree which websites and apps are best for them to use

Review these sites as they get older and let your child know they can talk to you if they come across anything that upsets them online

