

Policies and Procedures: Internet.

The internet is an incredible resource for your child(ren) to access, support for their homework etc, but it can also be a very dangerous place for them. They can be exposed to inappropriate material, harassment and bullying, viruses and hackers. They can also be vulnerable to on-line grooming by paedophiles.

As a Childminder I offer your child(ren) the opportunity to use the computer and the internet; however I have introduced a range of procedures to ensure their safety.

- I have a filter on my computer that blocks out most inappropriate material.
- I do not permit the children to go onto chat rooms/social networking websites other than the EllyTotts business Facebook account which is only ever under full supervision.
- I am always nearby so can keep an eye out on what websites they are visiting.
- I check the history on the computer regularly.
- I have screen recorders set up on all work mobile phones, tablets and laptops.
- I discuss with the children about the importance of keeping safe on line, not forwarding on chain letters, not talking to people they don't know, not giving out personal information that could enable people to identify them, to tell me if they are worried about anything and to never arrange to meet anyone they have spoken to online.

The children are regularly involved in the following internet outlets:

SKYPE

We will often use the internet to Skype chat with children from different countries or whilst staff or children are on holiday. This will enable children to witness other countries, accents and ways of living. It will always be an adult lead activity and we will never Skype with someone I do not know.

GOOGLE

Children of today's age know to say 'Google It' if your answer is 'I don't know'! We encourage them to do this to help expand their knowledge. We use both voice control ('OK Google') on the phone as well as typing in to a search engine. We have many child safety filters installed to make searching safer. Children are always under full supervision when using Google.

FACEBOOK

We have an EllyTotts Facebook page which we will use to post occasional updates. Older children are encouraged to help write these posts as it's a great learning opportunity, however will NEVER have unsupervised access to any account. Children are not allowed to browse Facebook and are taught the reasons why. If we want to use a photo on Facebook as a point for discussion (eg they attended a family wedding and the photo is on Facebook), we will find that photo before showing children the screen.

ASDA

We do the majority of our shopping online. Our food shopping comes from ASDA. We encourage the children to be involved in placing our order. Older ones will be asked to spell the food we are looking for in the search bar and younger ones will be asked to change the quantity by recognizing numbers. This is always a fully adult supervised activity.

AMAZON (SHOPPING)

We do the majority of our shopping online. We regularly use Amazon for buying toys and equipment. Children are involved in helping select items. We take the opportunity to explain to the older children how we mustn't buy anything without the adults permission. This is always a fully adult supervised activity.

YPO/BAKER ROSS

We do the majority of our shopping online. We regularly use YPO and Baker Ross for buying arts and craft supplies. Children are involved in helping select items and we may use the website to look for inspiration for activities. This is always a fully adult supervised activity.

PINTEREST

We regularly use Pinterest to look for inspiration for activities, particularly arts and crafts. When searching through other people's boards this is always a fully adult supervised activity. When looking at our saved EllyTotts pinboards, children may not be under direct supervision.

EMAIL

We have many pen-pals all around the world. Although we write letters and post cards to them, typing is a very important skill and will only become more key to life in the future, therefore we occasionally use email to communicate. We will only email from the EllyTotts email addresses, and will only email people we know. All emails will be kept in the 'sent mail' folder for at least 28 days. This is always a fully adult supervised activity.

NETFLIX

As we have no TV in the Barn, we may use Netflix to watch a movie or a TV episode. Any movie or episode watched will be done on the 'kids' Netflix account. The other Netflix accounts are password protected to ensure children can't accidentally access any unsuitable content. The set up of Netflix will be carried out by (or supervised by) an adult. Children will be able to watch an episode without direct supervision.

YOUTUBE

As we have no TV in the Barn, we may use YouTube to watch a movie or a TV episode. Where possible, videos will be watched and vetted prior to children viewing them. The YouTube account used will have as many safety settings as possible and will not be used for anything that is unchildfriendly. The YouTube account history will be kept for up to 28 days. The set-up of YouTube will be carried out by (or supervised by) an adult. Children will be able to watch an episode without direct supervision.

