Holiday time

Holiday activities to do
with young digital citizens

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📶 Being online

Access and Inclusion

Holidays are a time when we often meet lots of people, and can learn more about other countries, cultures, races and religions.

📶 Ask your children to conduct an online search on places where they spend holidays, to try to find out if people enjoy equal access to the internet and equal rights in society in this part of the world.

Learning and Creativity

The holiday season can be a great opportunity for children to learn new things and exercise their creativity.

📶 Visit a local museum. Have your children prepare the visit with an online search. When you get back home, ask them to write a story about the exciting things they did, or create a story about what they would have liked to find or do in the museum.

Media and Information Literacy

Holiday time is a great opportunity for the whole family to explore the world together.

📶 Ask your children to use a search engine to find information about the place where you will spend your holidays – even if it is your own town! Get them to compare the results they find, especially about any ads they come across, and teach them how to cross-check information they read online.

👍 Well-being online

Ethics and Empathy

Holidays can be a tough time for children who, because of mental, physical, social or economic difficulties, cannot go to places or do things that other children do.

👍 Help your children develop empathy. Ask them to think about the things they will be doing during the holidays, and whether all children are able to do these things and go to these places. Why not? How must it feel being shut out from certain opportunities? Is there anything they can do to help?

Health and Well-being

Holidays should be a time when children enjoy fresh air and exercise, yet many children tend to spend more time than ever online playing games or watching videos.

👍 Agree on screen-time rules during holidays, and aim to ensure a healthy balance between on- and offline activities. Organise fun events for the whole family away from technology.

e-Presence & Communication

Remind children that they should be careful about what they post online, even during their holidays, because every one of our online actions leaves a digital footprint that could well be permanent.

👍 Whenever you are thinking of posting a photo of your children online, be sure to ask them if they would be happy for such a picture to be seen by their friends, classmates, teachers, and even strangers.

🔒 Rights online

Active Participation

During the holiday season children should be encouraged to look for ways they can take part in positive, constructive activities online and offline.

🔒 Enrol your children in youth activities available during holidays (camps, sports or youth events). This will give them an opportunity to practice their participation skills in face-to-face situations.

Rights and Responsibilities

Our rights and responsibilities as citizens are always the same, regardless of where we go in the world or what we do.

🔒 While on holiday, ask your children to note down all signs and information they see that refer to rights and responsibilities (inside shops or hotels, on the beach or at the swimming pool). With your children, work out ways those rights and responsibilities adapt in the online world.

Privacy and Security

Did you know that the chances of homes being robbed during holiday periods are greatly increased when people talk about their upcoming holiday on social media, and /or publish posts and photos online indicating that they are probably away from home?

🔒 Ask your children if they would be ready to shout out in the middle of the street their name, telephone number, and their home or holiday address. If not, why would they post any of these things online? Explain that the internet is like a huge street where we can never know who is listening.

🔒 Rights online

Consumer Awareness

We all tend to spend a bit more money during holidays, especially when we are visiting a place we haven't previously been to.

🔒 Have a family discussion about local food and products your children like. Get them to research how these products are produced and how they reach us as consumers. How are these choices impacting our carbon footprint and the sustainability of the planet?

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Other Council of Europe publications on Digital Citizenship Education

► Educating for a video game culture – A map for teachers and parents (2021)
► Easy steps to help your children become a Digital Citizen (2020)
► Keeping young citizens busy at home during the Corona crisis (2020)
► Parenting in the digital age – positive parenting strategies for different scenarios (2020)
► Digital Citizenship Education Handbook (2019)
► Bullying: perspectives, practice and insights (2017)
► Internet Literacy Handbook (2017)

Further information available at:
www.coe.int/education

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