

# Celebrating World Children's Day

Helping children understand  
their rights and responsibilities  
in the real and virtual world



For parents



COUNCIL OF EUROPE




CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Being online



## **Access and Inclusion**

*Every child has the right to access the internet, regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, background or disability. It's up to every adult to help children exercise this right.*

-  Teach your children to treat others as they wish to be treated, with kindness and respect.


## **Learning and Creativity**

*Children have the right to learn to use digital tools wisely to access content, search for information, meet others and share ideas using a range of media formats (text, graphics, orally...).*

-  Show your children how to search for information using platforms adapted to their age and ability.
-  Teach them about cookies to give them better control over the content presented to them.

## **Media and Information Literacy**



*All children should have equal opportunities to learn and become creative.*

-  Show your children how to use the internet creatively, post texts and images on age-suitable internet platforms, and interact responsibly with others in privacy-friendly ways.

# Well-being online


## **Ethics and Empathy**

*Children with mental and physical difficulties have the same rights as other children to dignity, self-sufficiency and active participation in on- and offline communities.*

-  Teach your children to be open to diversity.
-  Search with them online to find examples of assistive technologies and apps that help children overcome disabilities and improve their quality of life.



## **Health and Well-being**

*Children have the right to be protected against all forms of physical and mental violence and maltreatment, and any form of exploitation that may jeopardise their health or welfare.*

-  Developing a relationship of trust with your children will encourage them to confide in you when things go wrong. With you as their safety net, they will build resilience and be able to bounce back after a hurtful experience (such as bullying).

## **e-Presence & Communications**



*Children have the right to be protected from attacks on their well-being and reputation.*

-  Talk to your children about using the internet ethically and responsibly, applying the same rules of good behaviour online and offline.
-  Remind them that everything they do online leaves a digital footprint that will help shape their reputation, and perhaps their future.

# Rights online


## **Active Participation**

*Children have the right to express their views freely, and to actively participate in diverse communities.*

-  Talking with your children about their favourite topics will give them practice in expressing their views, listening to the views of others, negotiating solutions.
-  Enrol them in activities that broaden their interests.



## **Rights and Responsibilities**

*Children need help to understand their rights, and the responsibilities that accompany those rights, in both the physical and online world.*

-  Teach your children how to respond whenever they feel their rights are not being respected, and to block and report unwanted contacts, disturbing incidents and content that is hurtful or untrue.

## **Privacy and Security**



*Children have the right to privacy both online and offline.*

-  Install filters, firewalls and antivirus software on your children's devices. Show them which bits of data are private.
-  Encourage them to talk about their online activities, from the moment they take their first steps on the internet.

# Rights online

## **Consumer Awareness**

*Children have the right to learn how to detect unethical marketing and privacy-invasive practices, and understand that they can be influenced and misled if they take the ads they see on face value.*

-  Be a role model for your children by taking control of cookies.
-  Teach them how to cross-check websites, and to make buying choices based on ethics and sustainability.

*Helping children understand their rights and responsibilities in the real and virtual world.*

### **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](http://www.coe.int/education)

**Authors:**  
**Janice Richardson**  
**Veronica Samara**



PREMS 156021

**ENG**

**[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)**

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE