E-Safety: Staying Safe on Games Consoles

The latest games consoles are all internet-ready multimedia devices. Through a games console you can browse the Internet, watch films and play a host of computer games against people all around the world – some contain violent or adult themes (e.g. Grand Theft Auto). Sony and Microsoft's machines all feature quite extensive social-networking chat functions as part of X-Box Live and PSN. All the manufacturers take a very responsible stance towards e-safety and the consoles have excellent parental controls. These can be setup to automatically block age-inappropriate games and films and limit the online gaming/social networking aspects of the machine.

Setting Parental Controls on the Microsoft xbox 360
To setup parental controls go to the Settings menu and select Family. From this screen you can set limits on what can be done on the console. You can also set time limits on how long the console can be used for each day or week.

If you decide to enable parental controls remember to change the pass code, otherwise your child could just go in and turn the controls off again. Make sure you note down what pass code you've set as you may need to change the settings at a later date.

Setting Parental Controls on the Microsoft xbox One
The process is slightly different to the older xbox 360 console. On an xbox one you will need to sign into the console with your own xbox account. On the controller press the Menu button and select Settings. Scroll right to Family and select the child profile you wish to modify.

http://support.xbox.com/en-GB/my-account/security/xbox-one-manage-privacy-and-online-safety

Setting Parental Controls on the Nintendo Wii
The Parental controls on the Wii allow you to block games by their age rating. To access the parental controls, go to the Settings menu on the Wii. If it is the first time you've accessed the page you will be required to enter the pin number you wish to use to access the page and enter a security question. You can then set the maximum age rating of games that can be played on the console.

Setting Parental Controls on the Sony PS3
Go to the Settings menu and select Security Settings. By default the password is set to 0000 so go to the Change Password link to set it to something a little harder to guess. Make sure you remember what you set it to though as it's difficult to reset it.

Now in the Parental Controls option in Settings you'll be able to configure what is allowed on the console. Please note the changes will apply to everyone using the console.

Setting Parental Controls on the Sony PS4
The process for setting up parental controls on the PS4 is quite a bit more complex than it is on the older PS3 console. A PS4 has what is known as a Master Account, which is what you will need to change change the parental settings. If your child set up the console, it may very well be their PSN sign-in ID and password. If the Master Account has been set-up by your child, it is advisable that when you have logged into it, you change the password via the settings menu and keep the password details to yourself. Before you can apply parental controls on the console you will need to create a "sub-account" for your child. This can be found within Parental Controls the Settings

menu as Sub Account Management.

To set the parental controls type in the default parental control passcode of 0000. Once you've done this, it will be a good idea to go to Settings → Parental Controls → Restrict Use of PS4 Features and change the passcode to something only you will know. Make sure you remember what you typed in though as it's very difficult to reset.

From within the parental controls you'll have control over the access each sub account you have created has to the different aspects of the PS4.

http://manuals.playstation.net/document/gb/ps4/settings/restrict.html