



How your kids can use tech to enjoy the summer

The summer holidays are a fantastic time to catch-up on the things that your kids love doing - and technology is bound to play a part! So, here at Parent Zone, we've compiled some activity ideas which integrate technology in a fun, safe way. We also think that these activities provide a great opportunity to talk to your child about how to navigate themselves in the digital world. Here are three things that stand you in good stead for doing just that:

1. Talk about location services.

If you're using Google Maps or another similar app to plan a holiday or find your way to new attractions, take the opportunity to talk to your children about understanding location services – what they are, how they work and how they relate to privacy.

2. Remember: connect cautiously.

Many young people have a lot of free time over the summer holidays – and often want to spend it with their friends. If they're making plans to meet up, take advantage of the opportunity to remind them to be careful about who they connect with on social media, and to not agree to meet someone they don't know in real life.

3. Check out safety settings and how to report.

Whilst doing things together online, take the opportunity to check out the different safety settings that websites such as YouTube have which are specifically designed for children. Asking whether your child knows how to report any inappropriate content they may come across online is also an invaluable discussion to have with them, and for them to know you're there to help them if it should ever happen.



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Using tech doesn't have to mean staying indoors. Googling what summer activities are happening in your local area is a great way for kids to develop their research skills, and to propose what they'd like to do as a family.



Using Google Maps can be a really useful way to plan activities. Ask your child to find the best routes for any upcoming days out you have planned as a family.



Why not suggest that your child and their friends do a Come Dine With Me-style competition? They all find recipes of a dish they'd like to eat online, plan an evening when they cook them all together and rate which one was the best.



Investigate your family tree online and record it by making a poster to share with family members, or to display at home.



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