



## Top tips for tools



**Can you tell your parental controls from your filters? Your SafeSearch from your Adblocker? Here's our guide to the most important things to know about tools.**

1. Tools are never foolproof. Determined children can find ways around them and even the best filters and parental controls won't catch every bit of inappropriate content.
2. Different tools do different jobs. If you're worried about your child getting any sleep at night you might want to use parental controls that allow you to set time limits. If it's bill shock you're worried about, then turning off in-app purchases will be most useful.
3. It sounds obvious, but the parental controls you set at home will only work if your child connects to the internet via your home broadband. If they are using 3G or 4G on their phone or tablet or using public Wi-Fi – or even accessing the internet at a friend's house – your broadband settings won't work. Device level settings are the ones that will travel with your child and their tech.
4. Peer-to-peer sharing is difficult to moderate and difficult to filter. It isn't classified and on some services there is a huge amount of it. You need to look at the settings on those services and double check that your children know where to find them.
5. Some of the best tools are the most obvious ones, such as turning off your broadband at night or switching off webcams to avoid accidental sharing.