

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after half term and a really special welcome to all the new families that have recently joined Noah's Ark Pre-school. We will enjoy getting to know you all over the coming weeks.

This week we have been looking at letters and sounds with the children through **rhythm and rhyme**. We have been singing rhyming songs and reading books with rhyming refrains in our thinking times.

A Squash and a Squeeze, Oi Frog!, Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose and Hairy McLairy from Donaldson's Dairy have been favourites with the children. We have also been looking at different objects and seeing if we can find any rhyming words, ('egg' and 'peg' for example), matching and making rhyming pairs and playing rhyming games. The children have all been enthusiastic about developing their **communication and language skills**.

We have attached some tips from Internet Matters about **Online Safety** for Pre-school age children which may be useful to some families.

Although there have been some sunny days, the weather has still been wet and cold and often unpredictable so please continue to send your child to their sessions with a **warm, waterproof coat** with their name in it. Thank you.

We are so pleased to have received our **provisional Ofsted report** following the recent visit. We were judged as **Outstanding** in every area which we are so thrilled about. When the final report is published we will send it out to families. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support.

Have a lovely weekend,

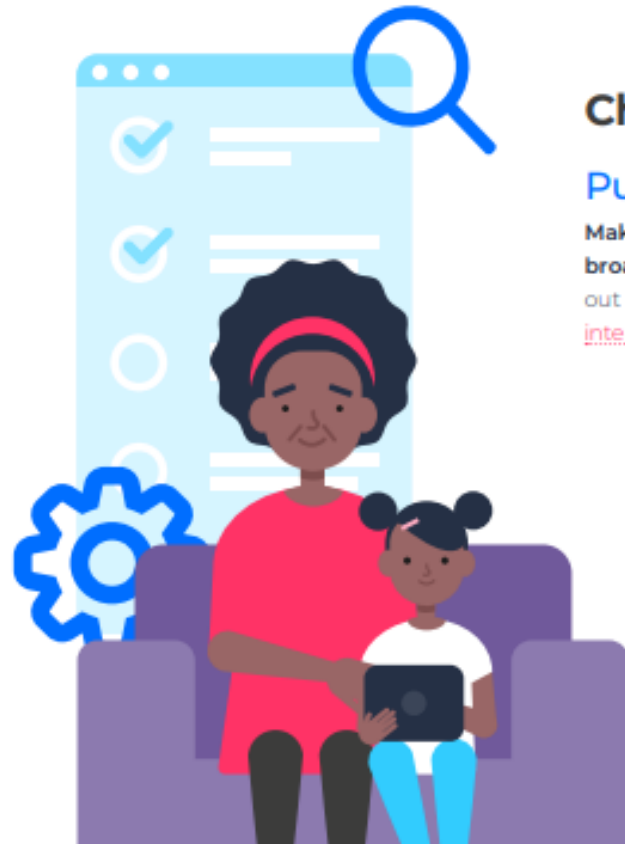
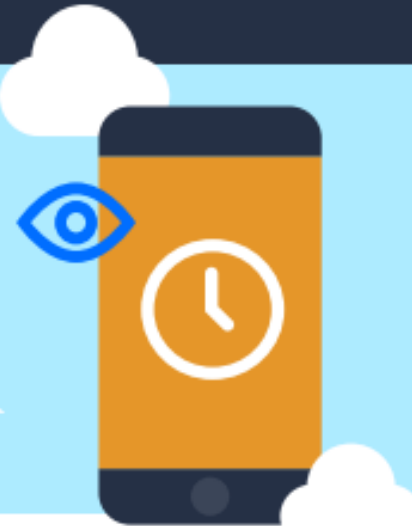
The Noah's Ark Team.



Support for parents of pre-school children 0-5 Year Olds

22% of parents of 3-4-year-olds don't think their child has a good balance between screen time and other activities

* Source: [Ofcom Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022](#)



Checklist:

Put yourself in control

Make use of parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or [by visiting internetmatters.org](#).

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](#) or [kids-search.com](#). **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by [visiting the Google Safety Centre](#). Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see, if they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.

to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a shared spaces like a lounge or kitchen. Make sure to keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first. It's also a good idea to have tech-free mealtimes and not to allow children to have devices in their bedrooms at this age.

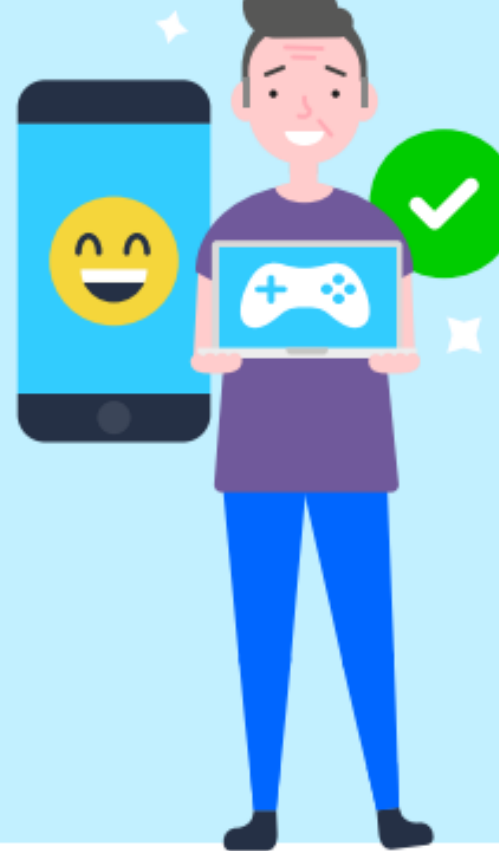
Explore together

Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as **CBeebies** and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

Help them learn through games

Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them.

Choose a variety of safe and educational online games and apps to play with your child so that you'll feel more comfortable with them exploring. Make use of websites and platforms designed specifically for pre-schoolers like CBeebies, YouTube Kids, Nick Jr, and use [age ratings](#) and reviews in the app store to check app suitability.



Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online – with information, advice and support on all the big online safety issues.

Scan below or visit [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) for more advice



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