



St Jude's Online Safety Newsflash



5 TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE WHEN USING INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICES



Examples: FitBit, Amazon Echo, Hello Barbie, Furby Connect and other app-enabled toys



It's important to be aware of technology, toys and internet safety. That's because over the next few years, millions of objects will be connected to the internet. You might have already bought an internet-connected gift for your child, so it's important to be aware of the potential risks.



1. Check the manual - product information often comes with new devices or can be found online. This will give you some idea as to how the device collects and shares data.



2. Be app aware - many modern devices require downloading an app. You should check the privacy settings and permissions of any apps you download, as well as the product itself.



3. Consider buying brands - buying a recognised brand is likely to offer greater security than cheaper options, although there have been data breaches with some of the most popular IoT toys. Reading reviews online will help you understand the digital safety of a product.



4. Check your connections are safe - it's important that your internet router is secure. Most internet service providers have security features, so you may want to consider switching these to safe mode. If the device has Bluetooth, set it to 'undiscoverable', otherwise you may unintentionally share data or allow hackers to take control of the device.



5. Be password protected - make sure all passwords are changed from their defaults. The use of strong, unique passwords is essential to protecting you and your family online.

