Parents Questions for Parents Online Safety Meeting, 26.11.18.

How do we create a community of parents working together to support children?

Hopefully, the evening proved that a lot of parents are taking an interest. I guess it is possible that some parents take a lead an get likeminded parents together to discuss issues and any solutions that work for them.

How do you apply age restrictions?

There is not one overarching solution. Most devices have the ability to apply age restrictions. Please see the section "Controlling Devices" on my links page for specific devices. If there is something you use that is not listed, please ask and I will find it out for you.

http://www.pclstraining.com/links/

Is it acceptable to create an account for things such as Instagram where the age limit is 13, for an 11 year old using a false date of birth?
The short answer must be no. The terms and conditions that the company set state you need to be 13 or over to use those apps.

I appreciate that many children under age do use these apps, but the, and their parents, must realise that they are doing so against the Ts and Cs. Parents must decide themselves if they are happy for their children to be using an app that is meant for older people and be able to manage their children using that app.

The same is true for parents allowing children playing games that have older age restrictions

Is there any evidence to suggest screen time or gaming will impact on the mental health or mental development of the child?
This is a tricky one as only time will tell. Science tends to need a long period of time to pass before they can categorically say there is a problem.

There have been numerous news stories about screen time but no real consensus.

For example, it was said using a screen just before bedtime caused sleep problems, but a recent article said this was not the case.

However, anecdotally, parents and teachers have seen issues around device or game addiction which can lead to anxiety when away from the game.

It can also be a problem if the screen time is stopping children doing other activities such as reading or playing outside.

I guess it comes down to the old adage, everything in moderation.

This is an interesting article from the Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/may/31/how-much-screen-time-is-too-much-for-kids-parents-advice-children-digital-media

If my is on You Tube watching something, is there a way I can stop inappropriate non-child friendly suggestions for other videos popping up on the right hand side?

The full YouTube website and app has the ability to enable "Restricted Mode" which will restrict some of the more adult centric videos. However, any filtering is not always 100% accurate and it is possible that some videos slip through the net. The other good thing about Restricted mode is that it turns off the display of comments that people post underneath the videos. Here are the instructions

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/174084?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en

Depending on the age of the child, a better way is to provide them with the "YouTube for kids" app . This controls all the videos that can be shown and ensures that only child focused adverts appear.

Do I need to get him a separate Google account /his own sign-on to make anything he clicks on age-appropriate?

This is a good idea as you can then control what he has access to.
Here is a link that explains Google's family safety settings
https://safety.google/families/parental-supervision/

On browsers using the Google search, you can also set "Safesearch" on
https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/510?hl=en&ref_topic=3378866

How can we restrict internet access after a certain time in the evening without switching off wi-fi which dad needs for his business, 24/7? What's the story about Routers? I've heard different users can have different settings controlled through the main router? What's this all about?

The router is the box that controls your homes access to broadband. Some do have abilities to turn off or on but that would affect everybody in the house. It is also quite tricky to do if you are not technically minded.

There are a number of ways you can do this without needing to change the router settings. It will depend on what device they are using, but devices such as Xbox, PlayStation, iPad's etc do have their own abilities to control time limits.
You mentioned in another question that he has a Nintendo Switch. They have Parental Controls. This lets you set time limits and provide you with lots of detail about what your child is doing. Here is the link
https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Nintendo-Switch/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html

Sometimes my child gets bored with the games he has on his Nintendo switch. Do you have any recommendations for age appropriate FREE games online he can play? He likes car racing games. I don't necessarily always want to BUY more games in the *bored-of-Nintendo-moments* as the boredom is normally transitory!

There is no real technical answer for this. I feel that sometimes it is a good thing allowing a children to get bored so they can get used to times when nothing is happening. It can be a time when they can do other, non-screen related activities.

Is it possible to permanently get rid of Criteo ads that pop up with games apps on my iPhone he may be playing?

There are ad blockers for iPhones. However, I have not used any so do not know how efficient they are. This page has a list of some that you could try.
https://www.imore.com/best-ad-blockers-iphone-and-ipad

Is purchasing various parental control software packages a quick fix solution? If so, which one is the best?

Different devices have their own way of setting parental controls. So there isn't a one product fixes everything.

Please see the section "Controlling Devices" on my links page for specific devices. If there is something you use that is not listed, please ask and I will find it out for you.

http://www.pclstraining.com/links/

If it is just the laptop/pc you are wanting to control then there are various solutions it will also depend on what you are wanting to control.

This review from PC Mag will give you some suggestions

https://uk.pcmag.com/parental-control-monitoring/67305/the-best-parental-control-software

Also see my answer below regarding Norton

I already have Norton for my anti-virus. Does Norton have any features to help parents with regards keeping children safe with web content?

Norton does have a solution for parental control. It is called Norton Family Premier. See here for details
https://family.norton.com/web/

Lego Minecraft. I deliberately haven't enabled internet access on the Nintendo Switch, but there is a new 2019 update I guess I need to download at some point as it's his favourite game. Can I download the update, then take internet access off again? Minecraft was mentioned on the information for this evening. I am particularly interested in knowing all about this game.

You can play Minecraft for Nintendo Switch offline, so after you have downloaded the game or performed an update you can then take internet access off and they can still play the game.

I've also downloaded the parental control app to my iPhone. Maybe I have set it up incorrectly but when I set a specific time I want him to stop after (say an hour) all it does is beep and he can carry on playing! Is there a way to remotely disable the console?

It sounds like you already have the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app installed. It gives you the ability to set a time limit. You are right that just setting the time limit doesn't stop them continuing, however you can also "suspend software" which means they get a screen telling them they have reached the time limit and puts the machine to sleep.

The link I gave earlier will tell you about that

https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Nintendo-Switch/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html

Are there any games that are as addictive and satisfying to my bright 6 year old as Minecraft but that can actually teach him something? CBeebies educational games I'm afraid just don't cut it!

Difficult for me to answer, as it depends on what would he would see as being satisfying.

This is a good site which compiles information from parents about various games and media

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-lists

in particular, the section for learning may be of interest

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/best-for-learning-lists

Here is another link which may be of interest. It is a parent guide to Nintendo Switch

https://parentzone.org.uk/parents-guide-nintendo-switch