**General Safety Tips for All Devices**

**Start with These Basics:**

* **Set a strong passcode** or fingerprint lock.
* **Create a separate child account** where possible (especially for Android/Google devices).
* **Turn off in-app purchases** to avoid accidental spending.
* **Restrict app downloads** or require approval from a parent.
* **Use screen time or app timers** to help manage device use.

**Consider Your Child’s Needs:**

* Sensory sensitivities? Reduce animations or use grayscale mode.
* Easily distracted? Remove unnecessary apps and enable focus modes.
* Needs routine? Use visual timers and scheduling apps.

**iPads and iPhones (Apple Devices)**

**Set Up Parental Controls:**

1. Go to **Settings > Screen Time**.
2. Tap **Turn On Screen Time**, then **Set Up as Parent**.
3. Use these sections:
   * **Downtime** – Set times when the device can’t be used.
   * **App Limits** – Limit use of games, videos, etc.
   * **Content & Privacy Restrictions** – Block adult websites, explicit music, etc.

**Create a Child Apple ID:**

* Helps you use **Family Sharing** to approve app downloads and purchases.

**Useful Apps for Safety and Support:**

* **OurPact** – Schedules screen time and blocks apps remotely.
* **Qustodio** – Monitors screen time, apps, and browsing.
* **Kidslox** – Control daily limits, app blocking, and schedules.
* **Choiceworks** – Visual schedules and timers to help with routines.

**Page 3: Samsung and Android Tablets**

**Set Up Digital Wellbeing and Parental Controls:**

1. Go to **Settings > Digital Wellbeing & Parental Controls**.
2. Use **Google Family Link** (download it if needed).
3. Create a supervised account for your child.

**Using Google Family Link:**

* Approve apps before install.
* Set screen time limits.
* Lock the device at certain times.
* View app activity and location.

**Helpful Apps for Safety and Structure:**

* **Google Family Link** – Free and powerful tool for managing devices.
* **Net Nanny** – Filters content, monitors online activity.
* **Safe Lagoon** – Blocks adult content and monitors messaging.
* **Social Stories Creator** – Helps explain rules or routines in simple terms.

**Other Tablet Brands (Amazon Fire, Lenovo, etc.)**

**Amazon Fire Tablets:**

1. Use **Amazon Kids+ (FreeTime)** – create a child profile.
2. Block access to the web or certain apps.
3. Set time limits for different app types (videos, books, etc.).

**Other Android Tablets (e.g. Lenovo, Huawei):**

* Install **Google Family Link** to supervise the device.
* Use **screen pinning** to lock one app in place (great for focused use).
  + Go to **Settings > Security > Screen Pinning**.

**Good Apps to Install:**

* **Kids Place** – Safe launcher that keeps your child in a secure app space.
* **YouTube Kids** – Safer, filtered video content.
* **Bark** – Monitors messages and online content for concerning behaviour.
* **Avaz AAC** or **Proloquo2Go** – Communication support apps.

**Final Tips for Parents**

**Understand What’s on the Device:**

* Regularly check which apps your child is using.
* Talk to them about safe online behaviour in simple, clear language.

**Tech Tools Are Not Enough Alone:**

* Combine digital safety with real-world strategies: visual schedules, predictable routines, and conversations about rules.

**Keep Things Up to Date:**

* Make sure software and apps are updated regularly for security.

**Talk to Your Child’s School or SEN Support Worker:**

* They might have advice or recommend specific tools that support your child’s development.