



WhatsApp

What are the risks for children?

Dangers of WhatsApp for children



Following on from yesterday's "Features of WhatsApp" message, we will now look at some of the dangers which this online media may pose to our young children. Having looked at how to prevent oversharing, we now move on to:

Inappropriate content

WhatsApp messages are end-to-end encrypted which means that **the content cannot be monitored**.

This means that your child could see or hear harmful or upsetting content, such as unwanted images.

There are a few things you can do together to minimise the risk of this happening:

- **control who can add your child to a WhatsApp group**. While there isn't a blanket 'no one' setting, they can effectively do this **by selecting 'my contacts except' and then selecting everyone on that list**.
- or they can **select 'my contacts except' and then selecting the individuals they don't want to add them to a group**
- **by default, WhatsApp autodownloads images**, Stop this by going to **Settings > Storage and data > Media auto-downloads** and **selecting 'no media'** for all types of connection
- **block problem contacts** using the privacy settings and reporting to WhatsApp if necessary.