

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR
YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE



EMERGE SCHOOL

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Talking to children about what's happening in the world

Many of the events happening around the world are discussed frequently in the news and on social media. Even if adults try to shield children from it, they often pick up snippets of conversations, headlines or comments from other children. Because of this, children may already have partial information, misunderstandings or worries that they have not shared.

For primary-aged children, it is usually better that the trusted adults in their lives help them make sense of what they are hearing. When parents and carers talk openly and calmly about world events, it helps children feel safe, supported and able to ask questions. The goal is not to give lots of detail or expose children to distressing information. Instead, it is about helping them understand the basics, reassuring them that they are safe and reminding them that many people are working hard to help.

Why these conversations matter!

Talking about world events in a calm and supportive way can help children to: feel safe and reassured by hearing information from a trusted adult who can correct misunderstandings they may have picked up from others develop emotional awareness by talking about feelings and worries build resilience and empathy by

CONVERSATION STARTERS YOU COULD USE

Parents/carers sometimes find it difficult to know how to begin these discussions.
The following questions and sentence starters can help open the door.

1 "Have you heard anyone talking about what's happening in the news lately?"

2 "What have you heard about what's going on in the world at the moment?"

3 "How did that make you feel when you heard about it?"
"Do you have any questions about it?"

4 "Sometimes the news can sound a bit scary. If you ever hear something that worries you, you can always talk to me about it."

5 "There are lots of people working very hard to help others and make things better."

What can parents do?

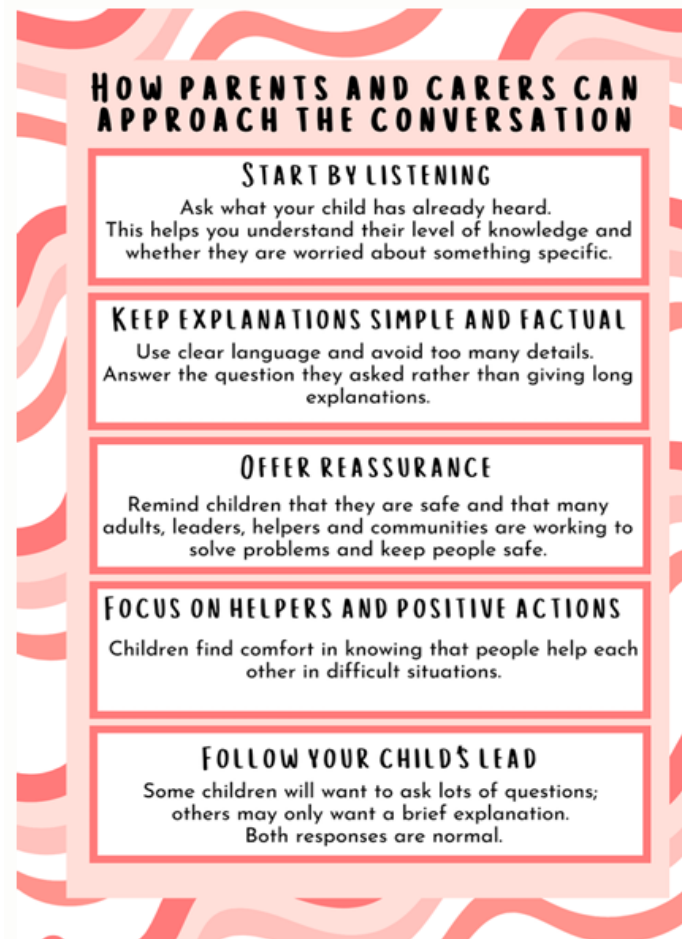
Small, consistent steps can make a big difference.



learning how people help each other during difficult times.

Top tip: Use child-friendly news when children are not given opportunities to talk, they sometimes fill in the gaps with their imagination, which can make things feel scarier than they really are.

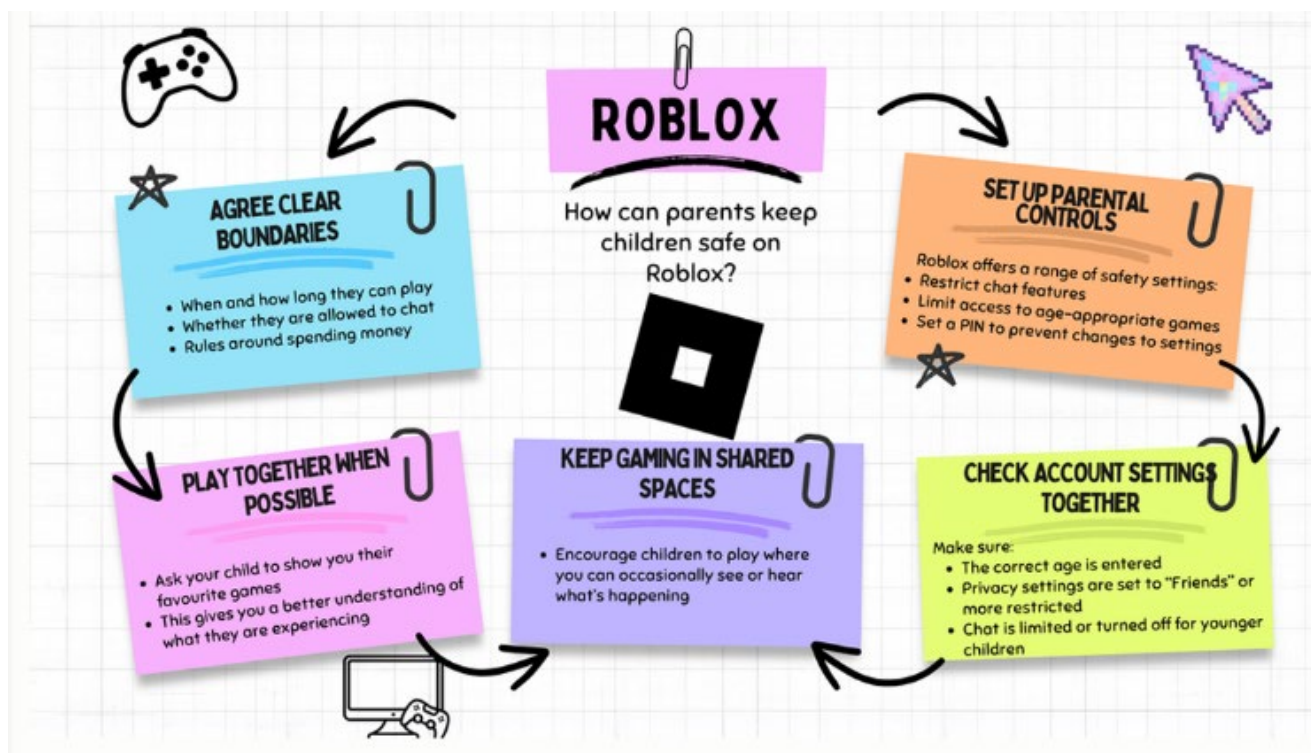
If your child is interested in finding out more, it can help to use news sources designed specifically for children. Programmes such as BBC Newsround explain current events in a clear, age-appropriate way that avoids unnecessary distress.



Understanding Roblox:

What parents need to know Many children talk about 'playing Roblox' as if it were a single game - but it's important to understand that Roblox is actually a platform where users create and upload their own games. This means that when children are on Roblox, they are not just playing one controlled experience, they can move between millions of different games, created by people from around the world. Why does this matter? Because Roblox is user-generated, the quality and safety of content can vary widely. While some games are creative and age-appropriate, others may include:

- Inappropriate language or themes not suitable for younger children
- Unmoderated chat features, where children can communicate with strangers
- User-created games with hidden content, which may not be obvious at first
- In-game purchases and pressure to spend money (using Roblox)
- Attempts to move conversations to other platforms (a common online safety risk).
- Even when Roblox removes inappropriate content, new games are constantly being uploaded, which makes it difficult to filter.



If you ever have concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing or need advice or support, the following organisations offer trusted guidance for parents and children:

Place2Be Provides mental health support in schools and practical advice for parents on children's emotional wellbeing.

YoungMinds Offers a dedicated Parents' Helpline, resources on children's mental health and guidance on supporting children through worries, anxiety and big emotions.

NSPCC Provides advice and support around safeguarding, keeping children safe and what to do if you're worried about a child.

Anna Freud Centre Shares evidence-based resources to help parents understand and support children's mental and emotional development.

Childline: A free, confidential service for children and young people who need someone to talk to. It can be reassuring for children to know support is available beyond home and school.