Staying Safe Online with Pokémon GO - useful advice for Parents and Carers

Don't know your Jigglypuff's from your Squirtle's ? Here are some useful tips to help your child stay safe whilst playing Pokémon GO.

Pay attention to surroundings - concentrating on the game may mean we aren't as alert to real-world dangers like traffic or other people.

Be careful where you go - hunting for Pokémon on the map may take children to places they might normally avoid. Make sure children stay aware of their location and avoid such places and ensure they tell you where they are going.

Time online - collecting Pokémon can be rewarding and quite addictive but as with other Online Safety advice, remember moderation. Set some ground rules which could include setting some family time aside to play the game together.

Remember your data and your battery - Pokémon GO will use the phone's data allowance and can drain the battery very quickly - remind children to keep some charge in the battery just in case they need to get in touch or vice-versa.

Friends? - just because someone is a Pokémon trainer or they are in the same team does not mean they are a friend - remember 'Stranger Danger'. Playing the game with our real-world friends helps us to keep each other safe.

That's a nice phone. - walking around with our phones held out in front of us can draw unwanted attention and provide opportunities for thieves. Pokémon GO has a vibrate feature when Pokémons are near (and also saves the battery) so it can be kept out-of-sight rather than out-on-show.

Still not too sure ? Ask the experts - turn the tables and ask your child to be your teacher fand show you how it works. You can ask the questions you might want to make sure they understand (e.g. what about 'in-app' purchases - do we need to be careful ?).

Parents/Carers can get involved too - Being aware of the potential dangers is very important but using the tips above, Pokémon GO can be great fun for all ages and provides a great opportunity for collective family outdoor activity.