Examples to Explain the Cyber World to Young Children

It's never too early to start using terminology that relates to technology. You can get your little one familiar with the language so they are comfortable talking to you, and you can minimise any misunderstandings.
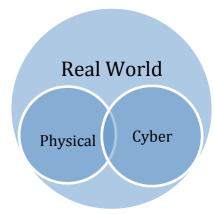
You are their best teacher.

It is a great idea to use physical world analogies and relate those to the cyber world as this enables your child to conceptualise, normalise, and accept the messages you pass on to them.

Let's look at some simple examples of how language is important to understanding how to stay safe and have fun on the Internet.

Physical World and Cyber World = Real World (One World)

It can be tempting to say we live in the 'real world'; however, that implies the online world is somehow opposite, 'fake', or not real.

You want your child to associate the Internet as an extension of their physical world, not a different environment. The **real world** is made up of the **physical world** we can see, touch, taste and smell and the **cyber world**, which can be a little more difficult for little people to understand.

This is really important to understand because the cyber world is made up of **billions of real people**. Use the table to explain how the physical world and the cyber world compare.