

Examples to Explain the Cyber World to Young Children

It's important to have a shared understanding in your home. You are your child's best teacher and there are MANY misunderstandings regarding the internet. You can help your child understand.

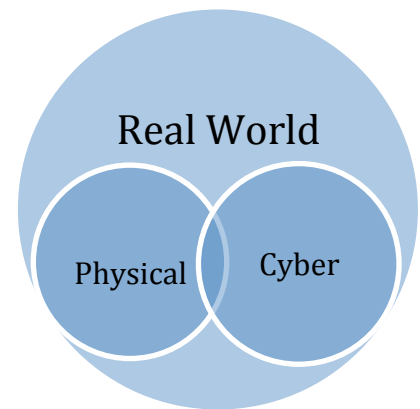
It is a great idea to use physical world analogies and relate those to the cyber world as this enables your child to conceptualise, normalise, and accept the messages you pass on to them.

Let's begin with perhaps the biggest misunderstanding.

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*. This is a dangerous misunderstanding that needs clarification.

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 children 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 are similar yet different.