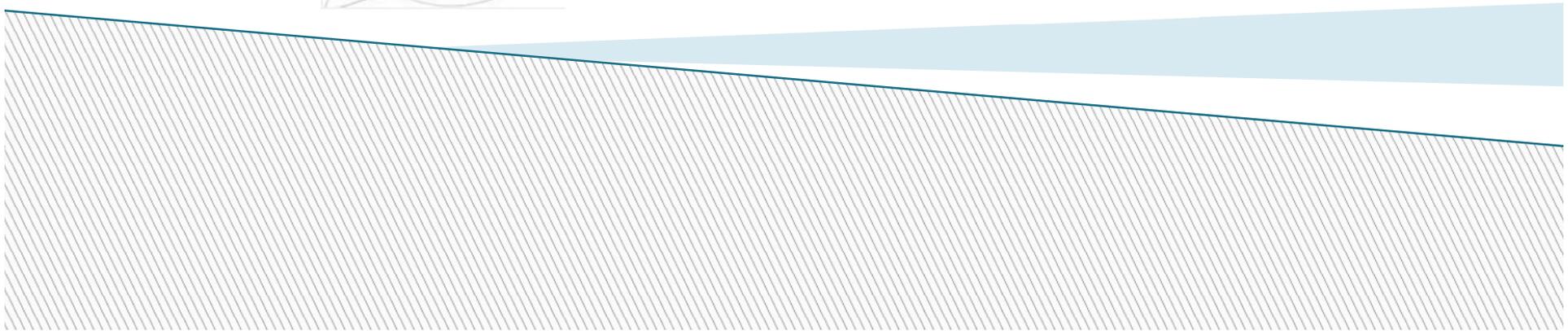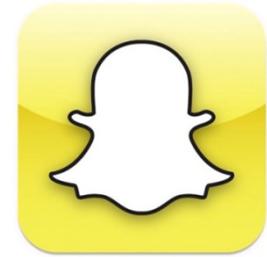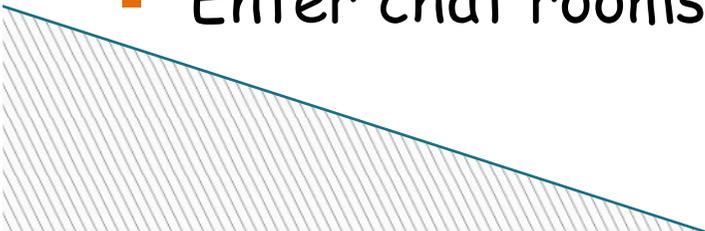# Digital Communication and your child

What is Digital Communication?

▶ Digital communication includes

- Mobile phones, computers, tablets and any other devices with access to the internet on which you can;
- Text
- Send photos
- Watch videos
- Send emails or instant messages
- Join a social networking site
- Blog
- Play online games
- Enter chat rooms

The Pros and Cons of Digital Communication

Pros

▸Allows children to keep in touch

▸Allows them to interact with the wider world

▸Spark interests such as creative writing, photography etc.

Cons

▸Distraction from non-digital world!

▸Open for cyberbullying

▸Access to inappropriate materials

▸Privacy (personal information)

Facebook

▸Legal age 13+

▸Closed network- but by default certain items are public

▸Must change privacy settings to private

▸Access to anything their facebook friend puts up on their feed

Facebook Messenger

- Legal age 13+
- Must have facebook page
- Facebook friends can message privately
- Can create group chats

Instagram

- Owned by facebook
- Legal age 13+
- Open network- but can change to private.
- Access to any public account
- Homepage suggests accounts of interest i.e. Celebrities, fashion, gaming etc.

Whats App

- Legal age 13+
- Closed network
- Chat with people on contact list with app
- Group chats

Snapchat

- Legal age 13+
- Share personal photos, videos, messages etc.
- Media disappears, but you can take screenshots
- Anyone can contact you, but you must accept them
- Can follow brands, celebrities etc.
- Cyberbullying incidents

YouTube

▸Legal age 13+ (unless with parental consent on google Family Link)

▸Can restrict YouTube on your browser through settings

▸Restricted videos show warning screen (18+only)

▸Filters not 100% accurate

▸Can suggest possible videos of interest and then auto-play them

Some suggestions

- Inform yourself about the apps your children are using
- Monitor your children's media usage- set clear rules and boundaries
- Communication- a two way street!

Further reading

- www.webwise.ie
(*Irish internet safety awareness website*)
- www.internetsafety.ie
(*a guide to internet safety for parents*)
- www.ispcc.ie
(*safety tips and advice for parents about their children'*)