

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Voice of the infant Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 02 June 2026 NSPCC Learning has published a series of expert insight videos on the voice of the infant. The five videos include insights on: what the voice of the infant is and why it is important; how practitioners can listen to the voice of the child and incorporate it into their work; and overcoming barriers to hearing the infant's voice.	Watch the videos: The voice of the infant: expert insight videos
Online safety: children who have additional needs Source: Internet Matters Date published: 03 June 2026 Internet Matters has published a report exploring how children who have additional needs can be best supported across their online lives. Using data from the Internet Matters' Digital Wellbeing Index which surveyed 9- to 16-year-olds and their parents, the report finds that children who have additional needs: are exposed to more harm online than their peers; are twice as likely to be bullied online; and are spending a significant amount of time online, with three-quarters saying that being online helps them to participate in activities and events that are important to them. The report includes calls for the government to: monitor the efficacy of existing legislation; mandate robust age assurance; and tailor support for parents of children with additional needs in the government's online safety parent hub.	Read the report: 4 in 5 UK children with additional needs say they suffer harm online See also on NSPCC Learning > Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
Online misogyny Source: Barnardo's Northern Ireland Date published: 27 May 2026 Barnardo's Northern Ireland has published a news story on children and young people's experiences of misogyny in the UK. The charity polled over 4,000 13- to 20-year-olds about online misogyny and found: 25% of girls reported being called degrading names online; 59% of boys said they believed they are expected to act tough and not show emotion; and 15% of 13- to 15-year-olds had been asked to share a nude photo of themselves. The charity is calling on the UK government to turn Ofcom's guidance for online services into a mandatory code of practice for tech companies.	Read the news story: Children as young as 13 are exposed to 'normalised' misogynistic abuse, says Barnardo's NI See also on NSPCC Learning > Tackling misogyny masterclass
Children's media use Source: Ofcom Date published: 21 May 2026 Ofcom has published a report looking at media use, attitudes and understanding among children and young people aged 6 months to 17-years-old in the UK. Data, largely taken from its Children and Parents Media Literacy Tracking survey, shows: screens are used by children aged 6 months to 2-years-old for entertainment and learning; AI is becoming more integrated into children's online experiences, but trust in it varies;	Read the news story: Younger phone owners, the rise of AI, and consumption over creation – our latest look at UK children's media lives See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse

and alongside reported benefits, children encounter risks in terms of content and behaviour. Ofcom has also published the latest report from its Children's Media Lives project, which follows the same group of 8 to 17-year-olds conducting in-depth interviews each year to learn about their media habits and attitudes. Key findings from interviews, observations and diary-based research show children are growing up in an increasingly online individualised media environment, with offline media and activities playing a diminishing role in children's everyday lives.	
Ritual abuse Source: CSA Centre Date published: 27 May 2026 The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published a blog post on organised ritual abuse. Defined as the organised sexual, physical and psychological abuse of children (and often adults) by a group of individuals through rituals, the blog post looks at the disbelief around this form of abuse and actions to tackle it.	Read the blog post: Shining a light on organised ritual abuse
Children in care Source: DfE Date published: 04 June 2026 The Department for Education (DfE) has published a press release announcing the expansion of its family finding programmes across England. As part of the programme, specially trained coordinators support children in care and care leavers to reconnect with relatives, safe adults, former carers, teachers and other important people in their lives. The reforms aim to make enduring relationships a central priority of the care system. The DfE has also published a paper on enduring relationships. The paper explains why enduring relationships matter and outlines the DfE's actions to prioritise these connections across social care.	Read the press: release: Government backs family reunions for children in care Read the paper: Enduring relationships for care-experienced children See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care
Child mental health Source: Nuffield Foundation Date published: 04 June 2026 The Nuffield Foundation has published a new report examining the mental health needs and services available for 14- to 24-year-olds. The research included a review of themes from published academic research and surveys and administrative data collections for England. Young people who shared their insights were located in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, whilst professionals' insights focused on practice in England. The report finds that: there is a gap between the level of need and the level of access to support; formal and informal mental health services for young people are fragmented and complex; and there is a mismatch between the spectrum of mental health needs and the way in which services and support are structured.	Read the report: ‘Higgledy piggledy’: Systems of support for young people aged 14–24 with poor mental health See also on NSPCC Learning > Child mental health: recognising and responding to concerns