

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Tommy the Tablet's Birthday Blunder



“The Vodafone Foundation is dedicated to investing in the communities where Vodafone operates. Communications technology can address some of the world’s most pressing issues and provide opportunities for education and development for young people around the world. We continue to work with our charitable partners to produce Digital Parenting Magazine to provide critical information to millions of parents and guardians to enable them to support and protect children as they grow up in an increasingly digital world.”

Andrew Dunnett, Director,
Vodafone Foundation

The Vodafone Foundation invests in the communities in which Vodafone operates and is at the centre of a network of global and local social investment programmes. The Vodafone Foundation is a UK registered charity (1089625). Connecting for Good is the Vodafone Foundation’s commitment to combine Vodafone’s charitable giving and connectivity to drive change. Globally, the Vodafone Foundation supports projects that are focused on delivering public benefit through the use of communications technology across the areas of health, education and disaster relief.

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Once upon a time, there were two very smart friends.

Their names were Tommy and Sally. But they weren't flesh and blood like you and your friends – they were made up of circuits and metal instead. That's because Tommy was a Tablet and Sally was a Smartphone.



They were both owned by a little boy called Angus and his twin sister Annie.

Although Tommy and Sally looked different from each other, they had one big thing in common, and that was what they liked doing best of all.

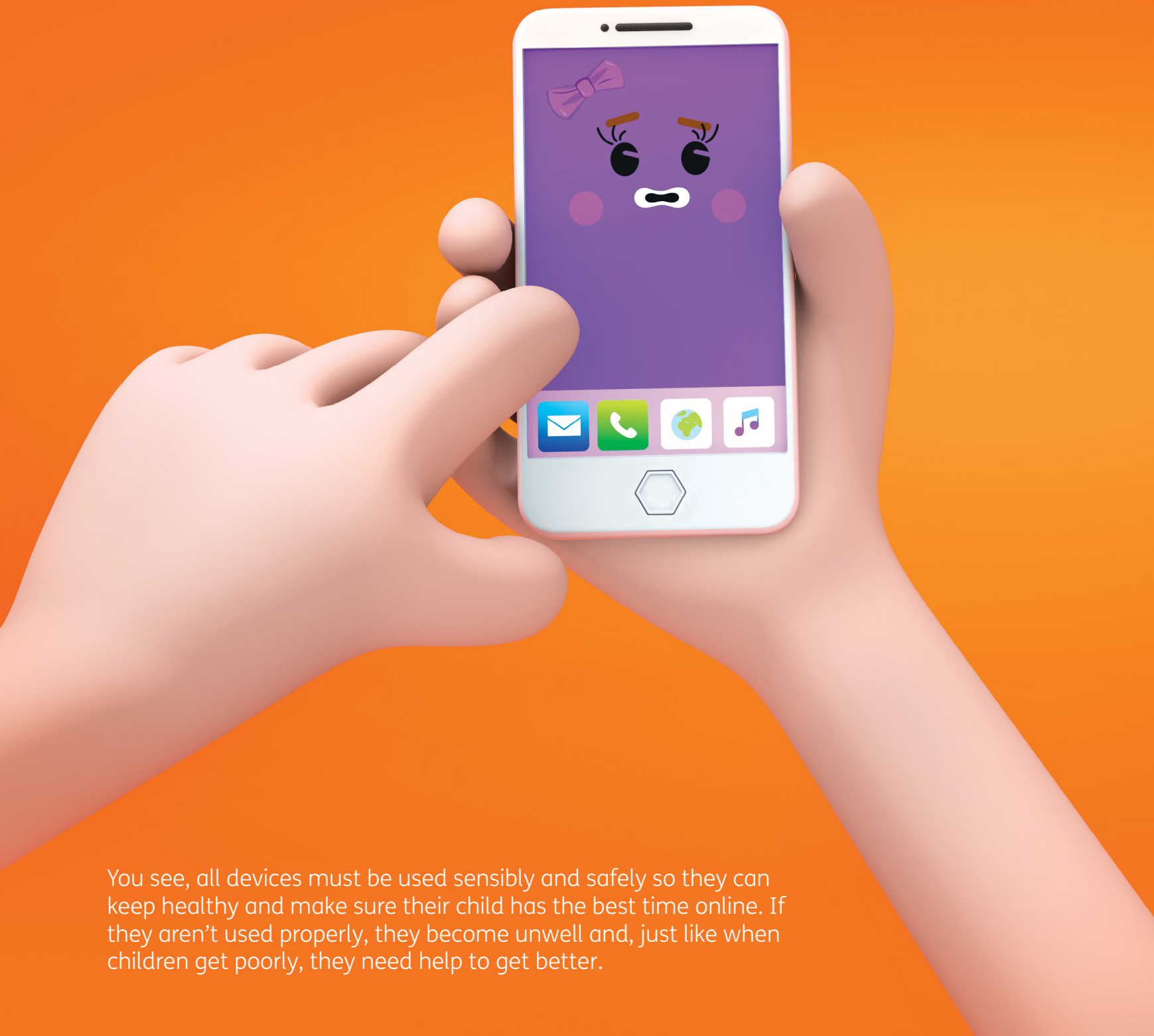


Out of all the amazing things they could do, their favourite was taking Angus and Annie online and helping them enjoy the internet.

This was because the devices loved watching all the cool things they could do, like discovering amazing facts, playing games and chatting with friends.



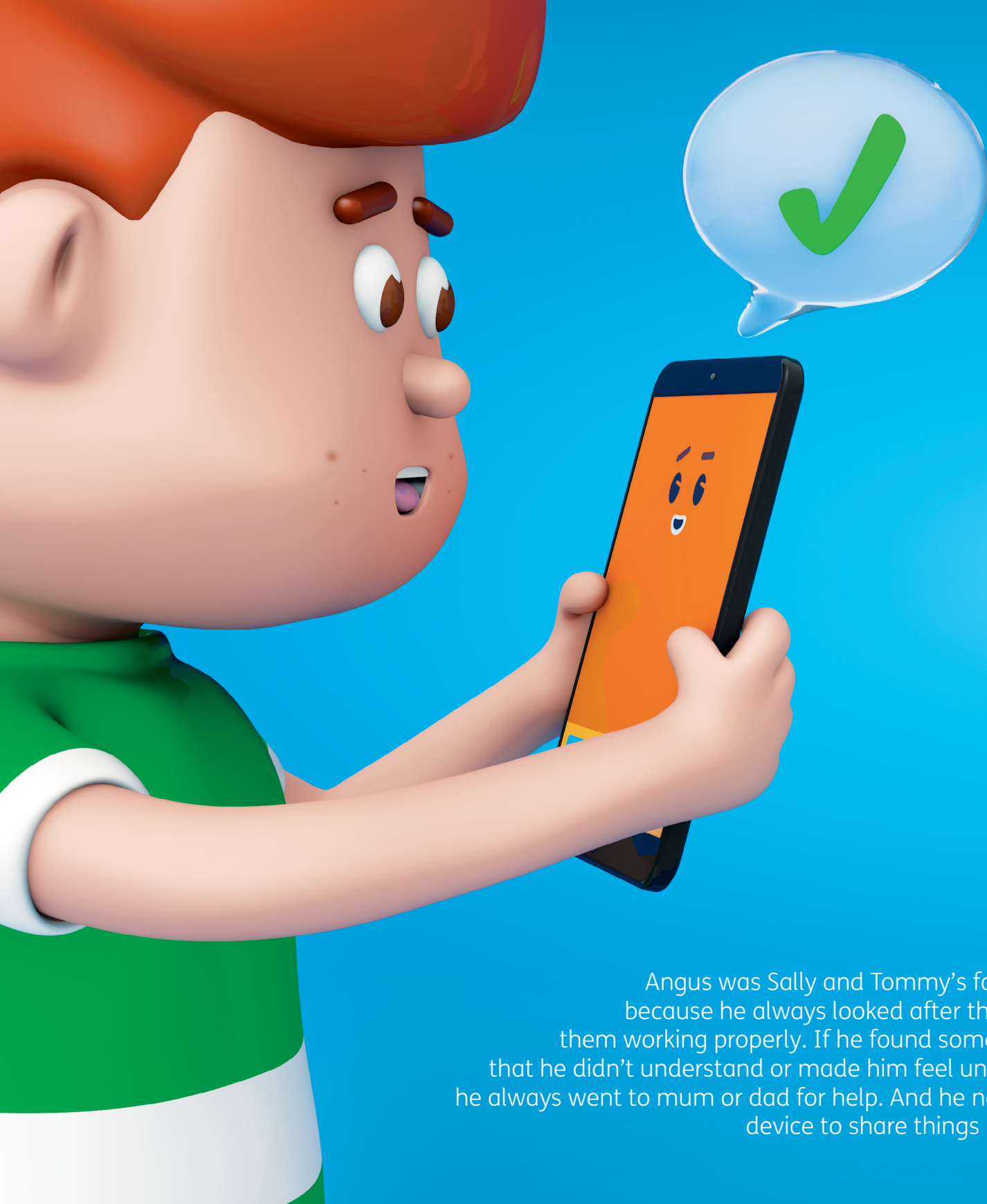
Now, although Tommy and Sally really enjoyed helping Angus and Annie online with a quick CLICK, TAP or a PING, they were always a bit nervous about ending up somewhere dangerous or doing something that would make them unwell.



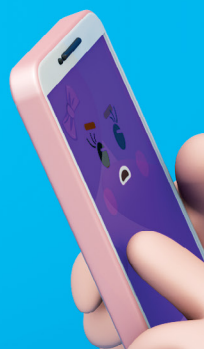
You see, all devices must be used sensibly and safely so they can keep healthy and make sure their child has the best time online. If they aren't used properly, they become unwell and, just like when children get poorly, they need help to get better.



Sally learned this last year when she first got the smartphone snuffles. Annie didn't know how to look after her properly and never asked her mum or dad for help or checked what she was allowed to do online. This had left Sally with all sorts of snuffles but luckily Angus knew what to do to make her well again.



Angus was Sally and Tommy's favourite child because he always looked after them and kept them working properly. If he found something online that he didn't understand or made him feel uncomfortable, he always went to mum or dad for help. And he never used his device to share things he shouldn't.



Unlike her brother, Annie could be rather careless! If she saw something online that she wasn't sure of, she'd leave her device on all night and ignore it. She even downloaded apps that were for teenagers and went on social media sites without her mum knowing.



Taking Angus and Annie online was Tommy and Sally's favourite thing to do, but they also loved meeting other devices to talk about the exciting places they had been on the internet. And today was their lucky day! The twins were invited to a birthday party at their friends Zain and Yasmin's house. Lots of children were invited and they were taking their devices with them too.



When they arrived, Tommy and Sally were amazed. The house was full of tech - even games consoles! The devices knew they were in for an exciting afternoon but were a little nervous too. There were a lot of children who might want to play with them. Tommy and Sally hoped they were going to be used sensibly.





Once the children had gone outside, the devices started discussing all the cool things they had been doing online. There were tablets that had been learning to bake cakes, smartphones that had been watching funny cat videos and a games console that had been playing with children from all over the world.

All of a sudden, a little boy pushed open the kitchen door with a THUD and a SLAM! and started grabbing the devices. Tommy and Sally instantly recognised him. It was the birthday boy, Zain. His eyes darted towards Sally and he made his way over to the kitchen table.







Zain picked up Sally and started plonking his chocolate-splodged fingers on her screen. He discovered he could open apps, read through messages and even send an instant message. All the other devices kept quiet but they were really worried.



As he watched what was going on, Tommy remembered how careless Annie could be and hoped that she had remembered to put a strong password on Sally. After a while, a noise came from the garden. Zain put Sally down on the table and dashed outside.





As soon as he had left, the devices tried to comfort Sally. She didn't look very happy – or very healthy. 'Oh I feel rotten,' wailed Sally. 'That boy was looking at all my stuff and sending horrible messages to Angus! I'm beginning to feel very slow and confused and my screen is throbbing!'



‘Don’t worry Sally,’ said Tommy. ‘We’ll help you get better. It looks as though Annie has been silly and shared her password. Some children forget that a good password is useless if you tell someone what it is.’

‘Yes, you’re right Tommy,’ said the games console. ‘And they don’t always remember to log out of things before leaving the internet. Then, people like Zain can pretend to be them and get in their devices.’



USERNAME

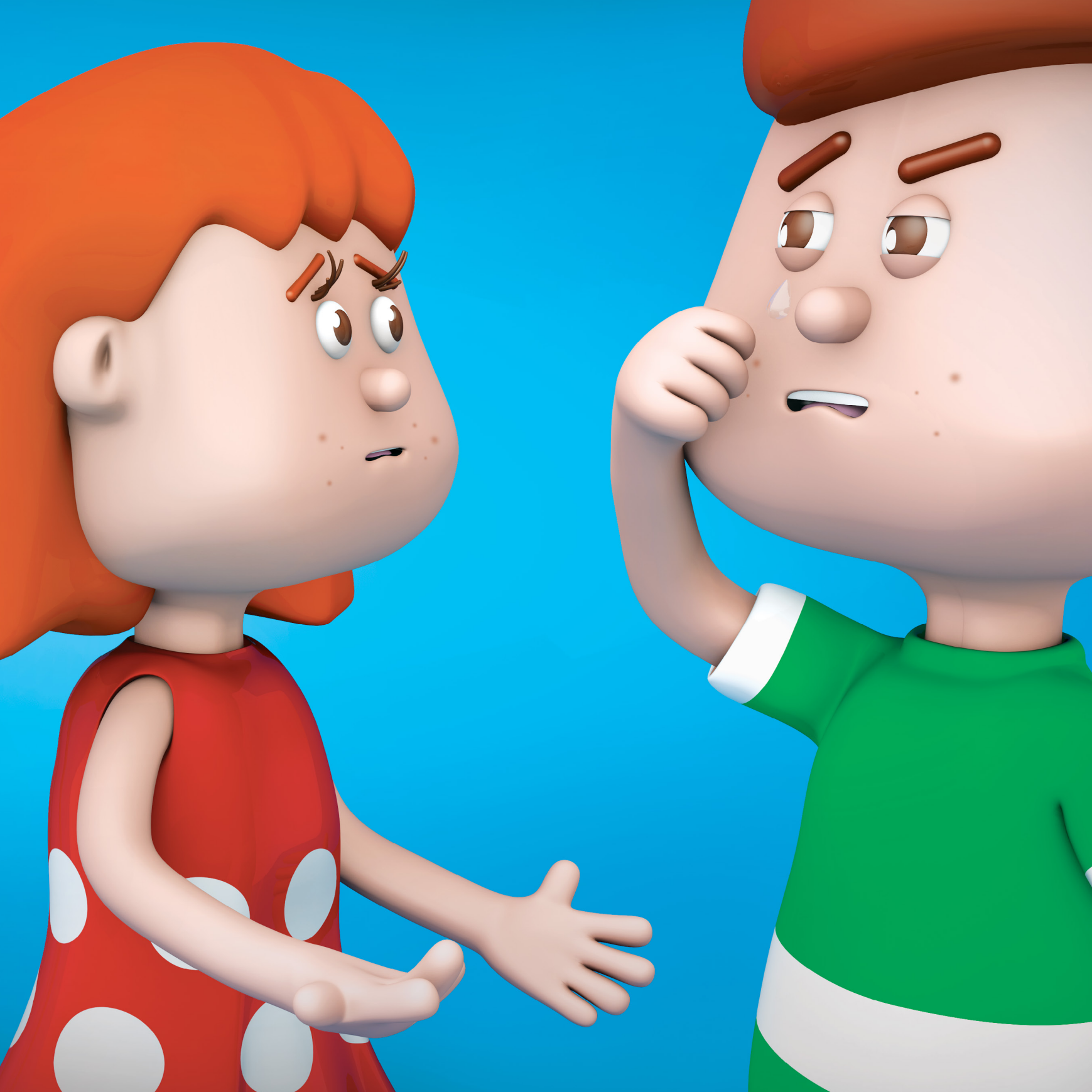
PASSWORD

Just then, Yasmin, Annie and Angus entered the kitchen and the devices quickly fell back down on the kitchen counter.

Angus looked very upset with his sister. 'But I didn't send that message to you Angus, I promise,' said Annie.

'She couldn't have' said Yasmin. 'We've been on the bouncy castle all afternoon!'





Angus wandered over to the kitchen table and carefully picked up Sally. Tommy and the other devices had to take extra care to look normal but they were very curious to see what the children were doing.

‘Look!’ cried Yasmin. The children spotted a big blob of chocolate cake dripping down Sally’s back. It was obvious that someone has been playing with her.

‘D’oh!’ said Annie. ‘I think I’ve made a mistake. I told my password to Zain at school yesterday. He wanted to use my phone to take pictures of the party!’







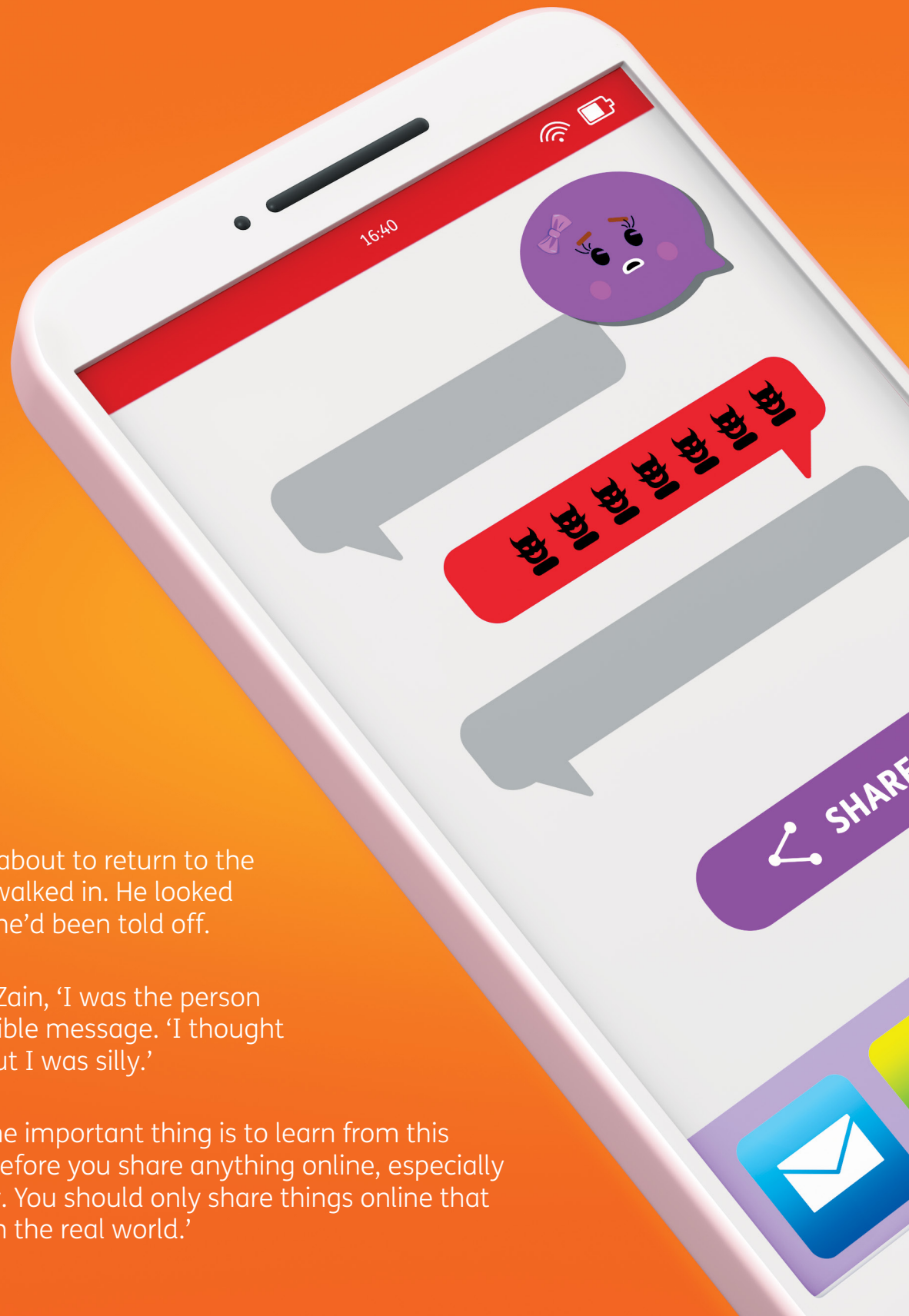


‘Oh Annie,’ said Angus. ‘Don’t you know how important it is to keep your password private? And not only that, you should change it regularly so your smartphone is well protected! Let’s fix this together.’

With that, Angus swiped, tapped and deleted the nasty message that been sent using Sally. Her screen started glowing and she instantly looked a lot happier.

‘Ah,’ Sally thought to herself. ‘That’s better, I’ve been fixed.’

Angus showed the girls how to set up a strong password and to log out of things before closing the internet.



Just as the children were about to return to the party, Zain and his mum walked in. He looked guilty and it was obvious he'd been told off.

'I'm sorry Annie,' sobbed Zain, 'I was the person who sent Angus that horrible message. 'I thought it would be a party joke but I was silly.'

'Well' said Zain's Mum. 'The important thing is to learn from this mistake. You must think before you share anything online, especially something mean or nasty. You should only share things online that you'd be happy to share in the real world.'



Zain said he was really sorry and the children returned to the garden for one last slice of birthday cake. They took their devices with them so that they could take lots of pictures of the party to send to everyone on their group chat. Before they went home, the children checked with the adults to see which pictures were ok to share.

Tommy and Sally went home happy. They had enjoyed a wonderful afternoon meeting lots of other devices and were very excited to explore new parts of the internet with the twins. Best of all, Annie and Zain had learnt from their mistakes so Tommy and Sally felt sure they would be safe next time they went to a party or a play date.

‘If Annie and Angus look after us properly they might be allowed a game console at Christmas!’ said Sally. ‘That’s true’ said Tommy, as they settled down for the night in the corner of the kitchen.



For more help or support on any of these issues? Contact details are below.

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- o www.parentinfo.org
- o www.internetmatters.org



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