A Parent's Guide to Gaming

Gaming can be real fun and some can help develop some great skills. They are designed by the best minds to hook in children and become addictive. However, for many parents, it seems like a foreign world.



Each game has an age rating (PEGI)





The rating indicates if the game is suitable for your child's age….. and they also reflect the main reason why a game is rated.

Think before you chat!

Be warned…….age ratings do not apply to the chat part of an online game. Most online games allow children to talk and message others directly whilst playing. Age ratings will not restrict the type of conversation or language used.









Strangers play online gaming

There are many people playing online and not everyone is who they say they are. Some people are not nice and play online games as a way to talk to children. They use voice changer headsets so they can trick and sound like a child



Not everyone is a winner



Some games are good at encouraging young people to buy extra features and in-game rewards. This is simply a trick to get parents to spend real money in return for imaginary prizes in an imaginary world.

What you can do to help keep your child safe online

- Do not allow your child to play an inappropriate age related game. These games will expose there minds to content that they are not yet ready for and can influence negatively their behaviour from an early age.
- Regularly discuss with your child the importance of letting you know who they are playing with and not to purchase anything online without gaining your permission first.
- Regularly talk with your child that they should only play games online with friends and family they know in the physical world and not to accept 'play request' from strangers.
- Try and play some of the games together.
- If your child uses a headset, sometimes ask them to remove it so you can monitor any conversations they may be having online.
- Constantly monitor the number of online friends they have.
- Ask your child to always speak nicely online and that if anyone is unkind or asks to have a private chat or meet, they should let you know straight away.
- Always let your child know that they should always say if they see or hear anything online that makes them feel scared or uncomfortable and to never arrange to meet someone who they have met online.
- Let them know that they do not have to feel as though they have done something wrong, nobody is going to get cross and it is not their fault.
- If you are concerned with anything you or your child has seen or asked to do, please call Childline (0800 1111) or tell your child's school.

If there is a problem always encourage your child to:

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Tell a parent, carer or trusted adult, like a teacher.