

ONLINE GAMING

**Parents
Guide**

Be Involved

1. Building blocks, Fortnite or Orc's might seem weird to you, but if it is important to your child showing interest can help build you relationship.
2. Play Games together. There is a wealth of game genre's. Find one you and your child can enjoy together.
3. Limit who can befriend your child online. Also speak to your child about who they are gaming with. You should hear names you are familiar with.
4. Be a cheerleader. Once you know how the game works, you can encourage and critic the play. They will know you got their back.
5. Learn about parental settings, if tech is not your thing, think about it as learning a new skill.

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Settings

Privacy & Parental Controls

1. Settings for each console is different but you should be able to adjust settings like: screen time, age appropriate content and games and payment options.
2. Understand PEGI ratings and meanings for games, click link for more information.

PEGI details



4. Click on the icon below to be sent to a walkthrough of specific console parental settings.



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Screen Time

1. Don't just limit, replace! If you are limiting your child's screen usage, engage them in outdoor activities, creative tasks, cooking, school work, reading books.
2. Limit screen availability before bed time. Use device limits to turn off before bed time. After all sleep is important too.
3. Screen time can be used as a reward for positive behaviour, or removed for negative behaviour.
4. Practice what you preach. If you are limiting your child's screen time, when you are with them don't be stuck in front of your screen.
5. Agree these limits with your child, this can be an ongoing conversation.

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In App Purchasing

1. Lots of games are free-to-play, so you can download and play them without paying anything. Games like this make money by making you want to buy things like:
new outfits, loot boxes, items or lives.
2. Always check whether something will cost real world money before you buy anything
3. Agree with your child on real money purchases. You can buy top up cards which you can use without using credit cards or Paypal, thus limiting over spending or hackers and online fraud.
4. Younger children may not understand the difference between virtual and real money in games. You can limit this in parental settings.

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Sharing

- 1. Choose a safe user name. Dont include: Full Name, Date of Birth, Address, Mobile Number, etc.**
- 2. Whilst it is fun to game with friends, your child can also make new friends online. Teach them not to share personal information, and ensure they can talk to you about this, not everyone online is out to get them.**
- 3. Most online games are open to all people. If your child feels threatened you can report abusive behaviour in most games.**
- 4. Player Ranks and skills are great bragging rights for your child. Speak to them about ways they can share these you are both happy with.**