

Your child and online gaming this summer.



To your children's
online world



Let's keep it safe and fun.



www.getsafeonline.org



Love it or hate it, chances are your child will be online gaming this summer.

If you're like most* parents, you'll have children who play games online, whether on a tablet, mobile, computer or console.



In the majority of cases, online gaming is a fun and safe pastime ... a way for kids to keep entertained and in many cases, play against and socialise with friends. Some games also have an educational angle, helping to develop knowledge and strategies.



However, as with many things your kids do online, there's an element of risk. This is because of the vast number of people in the UK and abroad who are also playing, the minimal restrictions involved and the fact that they're not face-to-face – so your child can't be sure who they are ... or what their motives are.



The risks include being taken advantage of by strangers with sexual, abusive, fraudulent or other criminal motives.



Apart from these, there's also the danger of playing games with an inappropriate age rating, running up huge bills on your credit card – if they have access to it – and getting 'hooked' to the exclusion of exercise, socialising and school work.

*Nine in ten parents say their children play games online.
Source: OnePoll survey conducted for Get Safe Online over seven days in June 2015, interviewing 2,000 parents of 5 – 18-year-olds.



In a recent survey of parents of 5 to 18-year-olds*, we uncovered these worrying facts:

- 51% worry about their kids' safety
- 37% feel they have no control over their kids' online gaming
- 24% are unaware of the security risks to their kids from online gaming
- 25% know their kids have disclosed personal information while online gaming
- 34% say their kids have spoken to someone they don't know while online gaming
- 16% say their child has been bullied or verbally abused

Are you one of these?



Be a **SWITCHED ON** Parent

Work with your kids to keep their online gaming safe

As a parent, it's difficult to keep track of what your kids are doing online, and gaming is no exception, especially on tablets and phones.

- Have open and honest conversations with your kids about their online gaming and the risks involved.
- Educate your kids about the dangers of revealing private information such as their email address, home address, family members or financial details.
- Explain that not everybody is who they seem or claim to be, and their motives may be dishonourable.
- Tell them not to respond to bullying or other abuse, and to report it to you straight away.
- Join in with your kids' gaming from time to time and randomly. This will give you an idea of the games they're playing and who they connect with. You will properly lose but you will earn cool points .

Other top tips

- Set and monitor limits for the amount of daily or weekly time your kids spend online gaming.
- Check age ratings of games to ensure your kids aren't accessing inappropriate content. It's 18 for a reason!
- Never give your child your payment card details as extras can be very costly!

In reality, we know that all of these may not always be possible, so keeping up a dialogue with your kids about their online activity is essential.

For more information, visit www.getsafeonline.org, choose Safeguarding Children then Gaming.

Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by a number of government departments, law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

For more information and impartial advice on protecting yourself, your family, your business, your computer and mobile devices while online visit

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