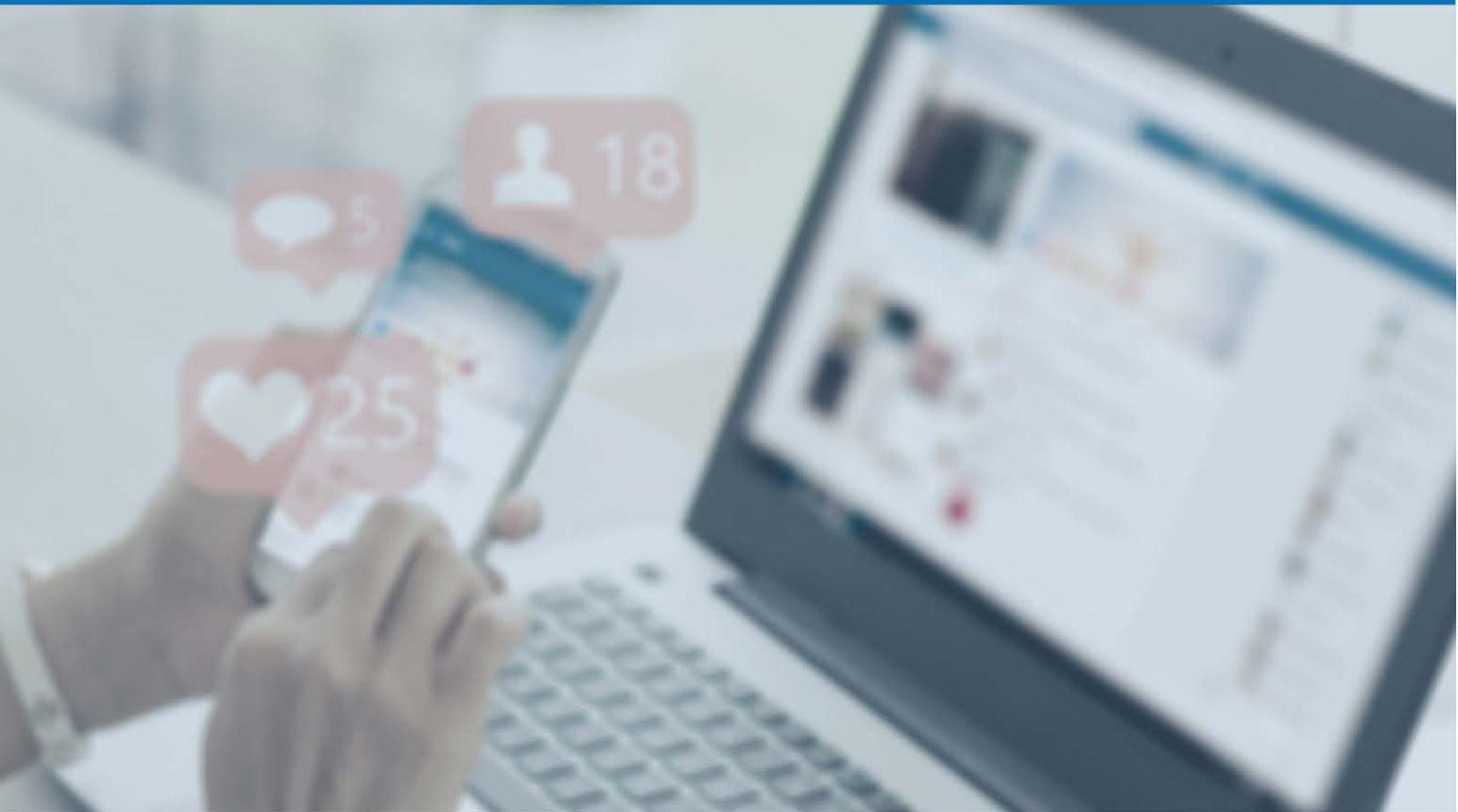


CYBER SAFETY AND DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY IN TEXAS



SAFER
SCHOOLS
TOGETHER

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Introduction

With society heading in the direction of being constantly connected to technology, what do we need to know as parents to protect our children and teach them responsible and appropriate uses of technology? The parameters of rules and expectations that you put in place at home will undoubtedly guide their behavior in the years to come.

Given the fact that technology has entered our lives at such a rapid pace and continues to evolve, raising our children in a digital era can seem overwhelming at times. The reality is that apps and technological devices will change, but the behavior stays the same. Moderation is key to managing technology use in our homes. It does not need to be an all or nothing approach, with either absolute prohibition or full unchecked usage.

It is beneficial to maintain an open, transparent, and ongoing dialogue with our children regarding the internet, technology, social media, and video games. Remaining approachable could be the difference between whether they decide to come to us when issues or uncomfortable situations arise rather than feeling alone in the process of going to their peers instead.

Technology is here to stay, whether we like it or not. The reality of today's students is that their digital reputation or how they choose to represent themselves online is being evaluated and assessed by future employers or admissions departments. The goal of this parent guide is to help introduce the major social media platforms and games that are either being used already or have the potential to be used by our children.

Stay the course. We want to prepare our children for their tech-infused futures and walk down this digital journey alongside them. Good luck!



General Digital Parenting Tips:

- Keep phones and devices out of their bedroom. Sleep is important for growth! If possible, have a central charging station for all portable household digital devices (e.g. living room, kitchen table, etc.).
- Know their passwords – it is our parental right. You paid for the devices and should be able to randomly spot-check them at any point in time.
- Do your homework! Download the app first and try it out, play around with it, and do your research. If your child already has the app or the game, ask them to teach you about it.
- Put tape or a sticky over the laptop or iPad camera when not in use
- Try to build a culture of openness and trust in establishing a two-way dialogue about technology and social media. You want to be approachable **when** (not if) an issue comes up in their digital lives.
- Technology isn't going anywhere, try to introduce technology into your home and your children's lives at a pace you feel comfortable relative to their age group. Enforce moderation and balance instead of eternal prohibition.
- We are not our child's best friend. We are responsible for ensuring their safety in the offline and online worlds.
- Google yourself and your family, addresses, emails, phone numbers, and social media usernames – see what shows up before others do.
- Remind them of the permanence of anything posted online or sent electronically.
- Make yourself and your child aware of your school and district's policies and legislations on cyber safety.
- Make yourself and your child aware of any local and/or state legislation on cyber safety. Important legislations to be aware of in the state of Texas are listed on the following page.



Texas Laws

David's Law¹

Texas lawmakers got **to work creating stricter bullying laws** after David Molak, age 16, died by suicide in 2016 in San Antonio, after he endured relentless cyberbullying. The bill passed with a unanimous vote, and in June 2017 Governor Greg Abbott signed David's Law into law allowing school districts, police, and prosecutors to fight cyberbullying on multiple fronts, with expanded definitions and tools.

Texas Education Code 37.0832 defines bullying as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power. The law further expands the definition as listed below.

Texas Bullying defined:

- Consists of all forms of communication ²
- Includes off-campus actions and communications that interfere with a student's educational opportunities, or significantly disrupts the school environment³
- No longer needs to be a pattern, it can be a single significant act⁴
- Schools must have a bullying policy, anonymous and regular reporting system, and protect staff and students who report bullying⁵
- Authorities may be notified, and parents or guardians must be notified⁶
- Allows a court to issue a temporary restraining order, temporary injunction, or permanent injunction to prevent any further cyberbullying by the guilty minor or the parent or guardian of the guilty minor may be compelled to take reasonable actions to cause the minor under their care to cease engaging in cyberbullying⁷
- Allows transfer of students to another school when necessary⁸
- **All school counselors, teachers, nurses, administrators, and other staff, as well as law enforcement officers and social workers who regularly interact with students must receive training in suicide, bullying, and harassment⁹**

Texas Penal Code 42.07 states that an individual commits the offense of harassment when he or she acts with intent to harass, embarrass, torment, alarm, abuse or annoy someone else. Under the Education Code, school districts are required by law to adopt policies to prevent 'bullying'. 'Harassment' is a criminal offense either in school or out of school.

Texas Sexting Laws Involving Young People

Sexting is a crime in Texas even if no adult is involved. [Under Texas Penal Code Section 43.261](#), it is a crime for a minor to "intentionally or knowingly" send another minor an obscene photo/video or a photo/video of a minor engaging in sexual conduct, if they know it was a minor. First-time offenses are punishable by a Class C misdemeanor, but the statute indicates that under some circumstances a first-time offender can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor.

In 2019, the [Texas Legislature added Penal Code 21.19](#) which states that a Class C misdemeanor is committed by a person if they knowingly transmit electronic visual material that depicts any person engaging in sexual conduct or with the person's intimate parts exposed that is not sent at the request of or with the express consent of the recipient. This applies to all electronic platforms such as e-mail, texts, apps, and social media.

Texas Revenge Porn Law

In 2015, the [Texas Legislature passed Texas Penal Code Section 21.16](#), the “Revenge Porn Statute.” In 2017, this law was amended updating the penalty from a Class A Misdemeanor to a state jail felony for someone to reveal or disclose images of someone engaged in sexual conduct or images of someone’s intimate parts unless that person gives their consent when that person had a reasonable expectation that the material would remain private.

Texas Sextortion Laws

[Texas Penal Code 33.021](#) makes it a felony offense to solicit anyone under the age of 17 (a minor), or anyone the offender believes to be under the age of 17, online for sexual contact or have sexually explicit communication with a minor, or someone they believe to be a minor.

[Texas Penal Code 33.07](#) states that if a person “uses the name or persona of another person” without that person’s consent and with the intent to harm, threaten, defraud, or intimidate the person, then he or she has committed a felony offense.

[Texas Penal Code 21.18](#) defines sexual coercion as an act involving sexual conduct causing arousal or gratification. This section applies to a threat regardless of how that threat is communicated, including a threat transmitted through e-mail or an Internet website, social media account, or chat room and a threat made by other electronic or technological means. Such action is a felony offense.

Texas Child Pornography Law

[Texas Penal Code 43.26](#) states that it is a felony crime, up to the first degree, for an adult to knowingly or intentionally possess or access with the intent to view material that depicts a child under the age of 18 engaging in sexual conduct; this includes sexting with a minor.

References

¹David’s Law - [Senate Bill 179](#)

²[Texas Education Code 37.0832\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#)

³[Texas Education Code 37.0832\(a-1\)\(3\)\(A\) and \(B\)](#)

⁴[Texas Education Code 37.0832\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#)

⁵[Texas Education Code 37.0832\(c\)](#)

⁶[Texas Education Code 37.0151\(a\)](#) and [Texas Education Code 37.0832\(c\)\(3\)](#)

⁷[Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code 129A.002\(b\)](#)

⁸[Texas Education Code 25.0342\(b\) and \(b-1\)](#)

⁹[Texas Education Code 38.351\(e\) and \(g\)](#)

Texas School Laws

In the past, sexting, bullying, or harassment may have been minimized, not taken seriously, or swept under the rug. However, there are now laws that Texas schools must follow. These laws have been created to protect students and school have a legal obligation to protect them.

- [Texas Education Code 21.451](#) - Staff Development Requirements
- [Texas Education Code 25.0342](#) - Transfer of Students Who Are Victims of or Have Engaged in Bullying
- [Texas Education Code 28.002](#) - Required Curriculum
- [Texas Education Code 37.001](#) - Student Code of Conduct
- [Texas Education Code 37.083](#) - Discipline Management Programs; Sexual Harassment Policies
- [Texas Education Code 37.0832](#) - Bullying Prevention Policies and Procedures
- [Texas Education Code 37.123](#) - Disruptive Activities
- [Texas Education Code 37.152](#) - Personal Hazing Offense
- [Texas Education Code 37.153](#) - Organization Hazing Offense
- [Texas Education Code 37.154](#) - Consent Not a Defense
- [Texas Education Code 37.155](#) - Immunity From Prosecution or Civil Liability Available
- [Texas Education Code 37.156](#) - Offenses in Addition to Other Penal Provisions
- [Texas Education Code 37.157](#) - Reporting by Medical Authorities
- [Texas Education Code 37.217](#) - Community Education Relating to Internet Safety
- [Texas Education Code 38.351\(e\), \(g\), and \(h\)](#) - **Mental Health Promotion and Intervention, Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention, and Suicide Prevention**

Criminal Mischief, Possession of Weapons or Narcotics and Distribution, and Gang Related Conduct

Texas Education Code 37.123 (a) states that a person commits an offense if the person, alone or in concert with others, intentionally engages in disruptive activity on the campus or property of any private or public school.

Texas Penal Code 28.03 provides that a person commits criminal mischief when: without the effective consent of the owner; he or she intentionally or knowingly damages or destroys the tangible property of the owner.

Federal Laws

When it comes to laws on sexting between minors, the [Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act \(FJDA\) in Title 18 United States Code Section 5032](#) provides that, where possible, juveniles should be prosecuted in state, not federal, courts. However, there are federal provisions for adults that are relevant to our discussion, and that young people should be aware of so they know how they are protected and when they should reach out to law enforcement.

[Title 18 United States Code Section 1466A\(a\), \(b\), and \(c\)](#); and [Title 18 United States Code Section 2252A\(b\)\(2\)](#) explain that anyone who “knowingly produces, distributes, receives, or possesses with intent to distribute, a visual depiction of any kind, including a drawing, cartoon, sculpture, or painting that depicts a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and is obscene,” or who “knowingly possesses” a visual depiction described above is subject to the penalties provided by law. Please note that the minor depicted does not need to actually exist.

[Title 18 United States Code Section 1470](#) prohibits any individual from knowingly transferring or attempting to transfer obscene matter using the U.S. mail or any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce to a minor under 16 years old. Convicted offenders face fines and imprisonment up to 10 years.

Child sex trafficking is prohibited by [Title 18 United States Code Section 1591](#). It is a federal offense to knowingly recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain a minor (defined as someone under 18 years of age) knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that the victim is a minor and would be caused to engage in a commercial sex act.

Federal law also prohibits the production, distribution, reception, and possession of an image of child pornography using or affecting any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce ([Title 18 United States Code Section 2251](#); [Title 18 United States Code Section 2252](#); and [Title 18 United States Code Section 2252A](#)). Specifically, Section 2251 makes it illegal to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for purposes of producing visual depictions of that conduct. Any individual who attempts or conspires to commit a child pornography offense is also subject to prosecution under federal law.

Sexting Vs. Sextortion

There is no doubt that we are seeing a tremendous impact that smartphones are having on our everyday lives. The use of text messaging especially has skyrocketed since the influence of smartphones. Research shows that over 15 million texts are sent every minute, and this number is expected to continue to increase.

The term 'sexting' has emerged as the use of text messages to send sexually explicit photographs and messages. Sexting is also commonly done over popular apps such as Facebook Messenger and Instagram Direct Messages, but we have seen it widely popularized through Snapchat due to its ability to send photographs and messages that can only be seen once for only seconds before it "disappears" into cyberspace. According to the Texas Penal Code, sexting is defined as the sending of texts containing sexual images or sexually suggestive language to another person.

Though sexting may seem harmless to those engaging in the practice, sexting or sending explicit and provocative messages and photos to another person could lead to legal trouble, especially among teenagers. As the practice has grown in popularity over the past few years, criminal law attorneys such as the Brownsville Texas Criminal Law Attorneys are seeing more instances where those engaging in the activity end up facing legal consequences. Teenagers who are considering or are engaging in sexting should pay special attention to their state laws around sexting as the state laws in Texas are frequently updated and could leave them with a criminal record.

In Texas, teen sexting falls under state law against electronically transmitted sexual images of children. It is illegal for a minor to electronically send images of an individual under the age of 18, even if the images are of the person who sent them or is the recipient. The definition encompasses everything from explicit photos to descriptions of sexual or lewd acts, whether they are sent to a willing recipient partaking in the sexting or to someone else as a threat or form of harassment.

When engaging in sexting, it's important to be knowledgeable not only about the laws but why the laws are in place. Sexting has its dangers to acknowledge how it can permanently impact the lives of our youth. One of the most dangerous scenarios that we see occur repeatedly, especially in teenagers, is sextortion. Sextortion is when non-physical forms of coercion are used to extort non-consensual sexual favors from the victim. Sextortion can happen to anyone who chooses to sext – it's not always a stranger you've never met, it can also be someone close to you. It is crucial to understand when you choose to engage in sexting, you are subjecting yourself to sextortion.



The Essentials



Hashtag – a hashtag is a symbol (#) added before a word that turns that word into a searchable category indexed by the social media network and becomes discoverable by other users. Instagram and Twitter are the primary platforms where hashtags are used. Hashtags are a way of making it easier to find, follow, and contribute to a conversation.



Username – A username is a unique online identity that is chosen to represent someone online or on social media. Most platforms make you choose a username when you create an account.



Passwords – We all know the challenge of trying to remember our password for a website or an app and it's easy to fall into habits of using the exact same passwords – easy ones – for all of our logins. This is a dangerous practice, especially if it is something easily guessable such as a dog or our kid's name and their birthday!

We should remind our children *not to share their passwords with their friends!* This is the number one reason behind accounts getting “hacked”.

Use different passwords for different sites and build strong ones: a mix of numbers, letters, and special characters (!@#%\$^&*).

These are the most common passwords statistically used around the world (based on data breaches):

If any of these are yours – change them!

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. password | 4. qwerty | 6. letmein | 9. welcome |
| 2. 1234 | 5. qwertyuiop | 7. abc123 | 10. football |
| 3. 123456789 | | 8. 111111 | |



HINT: Try a password manager! There are many free apps available.

Social Media Apps to Know



Snapchat (“Snap”)



Since its release in 2011, Snapchat has remained to this day the most popular social media application that our youth are using to communicate and share their digital lives. Snapchat is the de-facto medium of communication for students grade 7-12. The reason for its popularity is that it turned text communication into a visual experience that allows users to send disappearing photos that leave behind no evidence and don’t (for the most part) become part of a youth’s digital footprint.

The most common questions we receive from parents are about Snapchat and how it works. Let’s go in-depth!

The foundation of Snapchat is the disappearing photo or video that vanishes into thin air after it has been opened. Users can set a viewing time of up to 10 seconds or an infinite amount of time after which, once viewed, it will be deleted from the recipient’s device and as the company claims, from its servers.

Snapchat allows users to take still photos, record short videos, add text, and create drawings and send them to a personalized and typically private list of friends. However, nothing stops the recipient from taking a screenshot or using a different device to take a picture of the image or video. Note: if you take a screenshot using the recipient device, within Snapchat, it will notify the sender that you’ve taken a copy.

Despite news headlines that suggest that Snapchat is just a “sexting” app or one that is ONLY used to send nude photos, this is not the case and represents a very small usage of the app.

Snapchat Lingo

Snaps

A user takes a photo/video using their digital device/smartphone in real-time. The user can select an amount of time between 1-10 seconds or choose infinite time for the receiver to view the photo/video. A user can elect to have the photo/video they have just taken to be saved into their photo gallery or simply sent via Snapchat without being saved on their device.

Stories

A user can add the photo/video to their “story”. Depending on the user’s privacy settings, the photo and videos added to a story can be viewed by all Snapchat users or just those on their friends' list for only up to 24 hours.

Chat

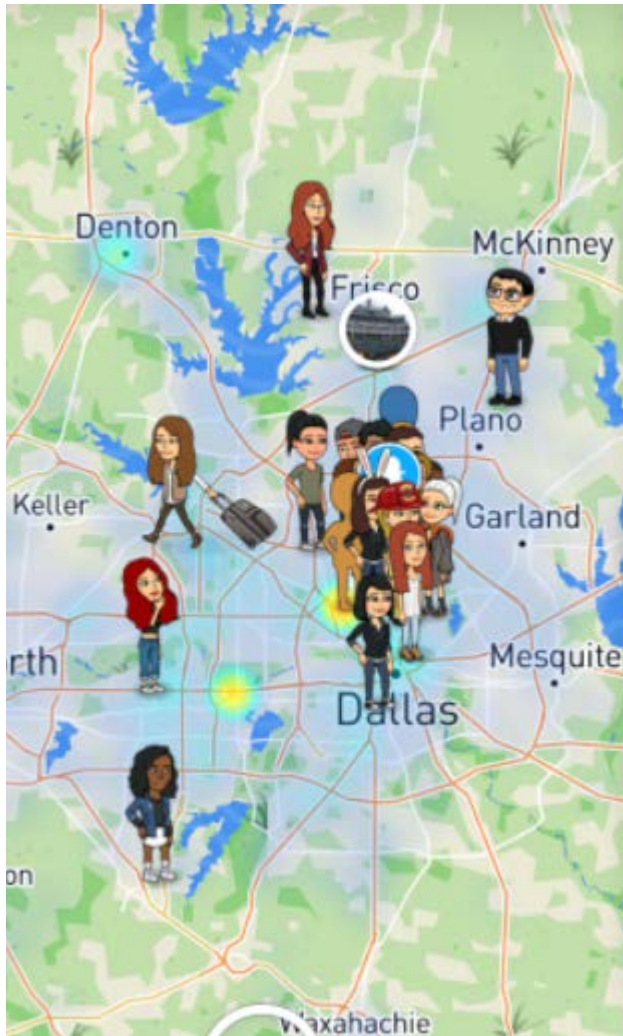
A user can type a text message within the Snapchat app to their friends using this feature. Once both parties have viewed the message, the message will vanish – the chat can also be manually changed within each conversation to disappear after 24 hours instead. Photos from the camera roll or gallery of the user’s photo can be uploaded and sent within the chat. Group chats often exist between multiple friends.

Streaks

Seen within the chat log screen, a person’s “Snapchat Streak” is the number of consecutive days that the account owner and a friend have sent at least but no less than 1 snap per day to each other. If they do not snap each other in 24 hours, they lose their streak with their friend (a huge deal!).

Snap Map

Within the Snapchat app is a feature called the Snap Map. Here, you can view Snaps of sporting events, celebrations, breaking news, etc. However, perhaps the most concerning the content you can view on this map where your friends are...right now. You can share your locations with everyone you are “friends” with so you can see **exactly** where they are and what they are doing (driving, sleeping, listening to music, etc.), in real-time plotted on a map.

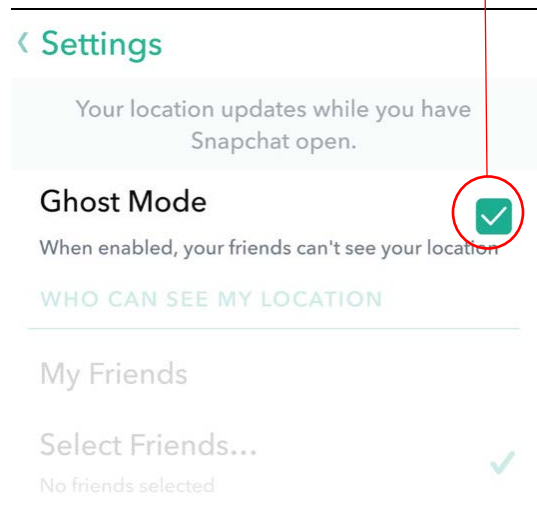


These are all of Ashley’s friends who have Snapmap enabled (the vast majority). They are represented by the Bitmoji that they designed.

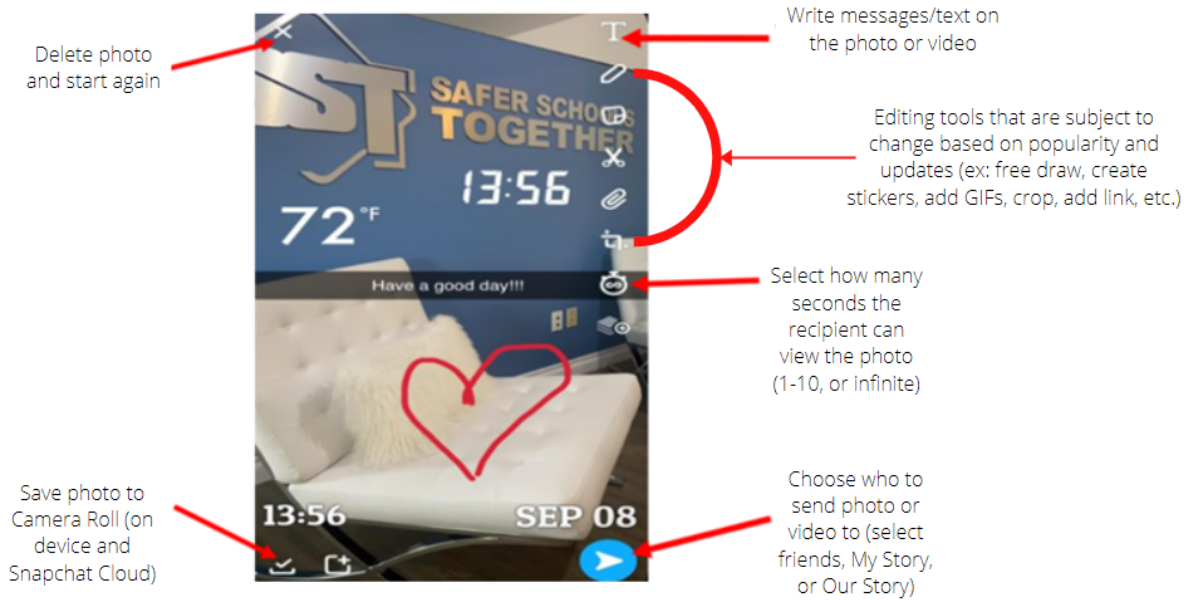
This is why it is so important that our children are only communicating on Snapchat with close friends that they know in real life.

Within settings, you can turn off the ability for others to see your location by enabling “Ghost Mode” – or only allow it to be viewed by their best friend and/or parents.

Enable Ghost Mode



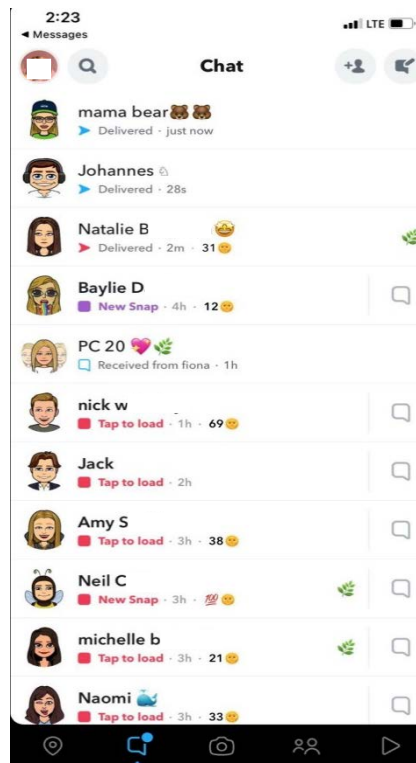
After taking a photo on Snapchat you will see:






















Message Screen (Friends Only):

This is a real screenshot from a grade 10 student (“Jenny”)

Use the ‘Chat Screen Icon Guide’ and ‘Friend Emojis’ charts on the following pages to see who Jenny interacts with the most



Chat Screen Icon Guide

-  You sent a Snap without audio
-  You sent a Snap with audio
-  You sent a Chat
-  Depending on privacy settings, a gray pending icon may appear if someone has not accepted your friend request
-  A friend opened a Snap without audio
-  A friend opened a Snap with audio
-  A friend opened a Chat
-  You have an unopened Snap (or group of Snaps) without audio
-  You have an unopened Snap (or group of Snaps) that includes audio
-  You have an unread Chat
-  Your Snap sent (without audio) has been viewed
-  Your Snap sent (with audio) has been viewed
-  Your Chat has been viewed
-  A Snap or Chat is pending and may have expired
-  A screenshot has been taken of your Snap without audio
-  A screenshot has been taken of your Snap with audio
-  A screenshot has been taken of your Chat
-  Your Snap sent without audio has been replayed
-  Your Snap sent with audio has been replayed

Courtesy of Snapchat.

Friend Emojis

Friend Emojis help you keep track of your friends on Snapchat. These can change over time, based on the way you use Snapchat. Friend Emojis can also be altered in the settings of snapchat.



Gold Star – Someone has replayed this person’s snaps in the past 24 hours. They must have something interesting to show.



Yellow Heart – You are #1 best friends with each other. You send the most snaps to this person, and they send the most snaps to you.



Red Heart – You have been #1 best friends with each other for two weeks straight.



Pink Hearts – You have been #1 best friends with each other for two months straight. Dedication!



Baby – You just became friends with this person.



Face with Sunglasses – One of your best friends is one of their best friends. You send a lot of snaps to someone they also send a lot of snaps to.



Grimacing Face – Your #1 best friend is their #1 best friend. You send the most snaps to the same person that they do. Awkward.



Smirking Face – You are one of their best friends...but they are not a best friend of yours. You don’t send them many snaps, but they send you a lot.



Smiling Face – Another best friend of yours. You send this person a lot of snaps. Not your #1 best friend, but they are up there.



Fire – You are on a Snapstreak! You have snapped this person every day and they have snapped you back. Increases with number of consecutive days.



Hundred – 100 day Snapstreak. The 100 emoji appears next to the fire when you snap back and forth with someone for one hundred days in a row.



Hourglass – Your Snapstreak is about to end. Send another snap to keep it alive.



Birthday Cake – This friend has a birthday today. Only displays if friend has the Birthday Party feature enabled in settings.

Note: These emojis can be customizable and swapped but typically this is the legend to follow.

Snapchat determines the emoji that shows up next to a friend’s name.

Yolo

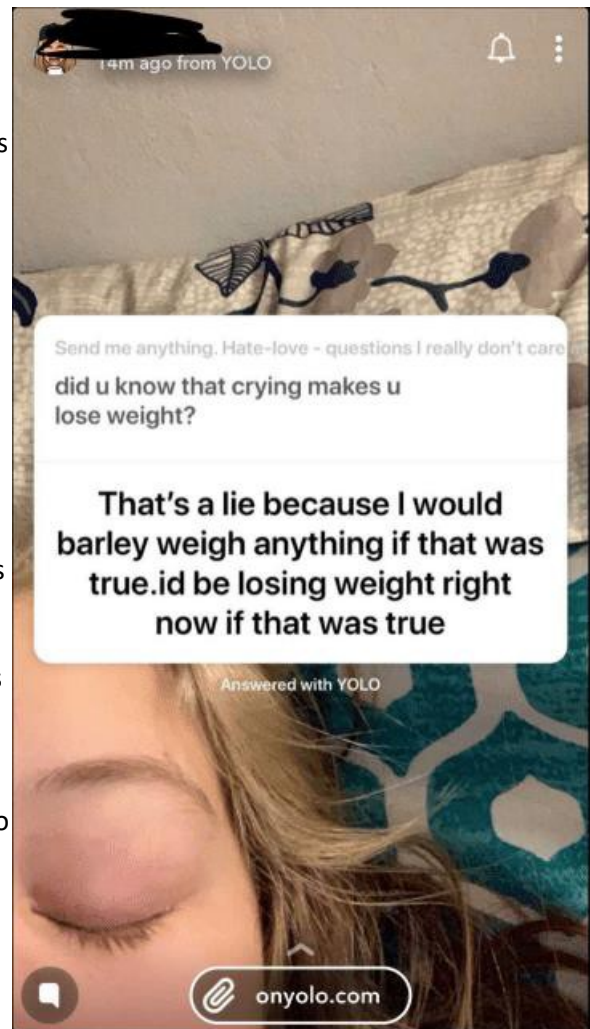


Yolo (an acronym for 'You Only Live Once') is a third party application that is used within Snapchat. The app is a free add-on feature for Snapchat and within a week of its release, Yolo became the most downloaded iPhone app in the U.S. When users connect Yolo to their Snapchat account, they can add a sticker to their Snapchat Story that invites whoever has access to their story to give them feedback or ask them questions. Then users can respond to those questions completely anonymously.

Yolo is a very attractive app to young people as it gives them anonymity to say what they want without having to face repercussions for it. This is not only seen as beneficial to the question responders, but also the question-askers as it could be a potential opportunity for your crush to tell you they like you or someone tells you that you look good when they otherwise wouldn't have the courage to say it to your face.

This isn't the first time we have seen this type of app. Others include: Ask.fm, Curious Cat, Yik Yak, Whisper, Secret, Sarahah, TBH, and Tellonym. Although Yolo is currently the most popular, this will most likely not be the last we see of anonymous platforms.

Unfortunately, this type of "bathroom wall" style anonymous platform can and has been abused and creates a place for bullies to stay truly anonymous and protected from any possible consequences. Although to teens a nice compliment such as "you rocked your presentation in class today!" or "your new hair cut looks awesome!" from a stranger can feel like a sense of validation, these anonymous apps can be hubs for cyberbullying and cause serious emotional trauma from inappropriate use. The Yolo app itself is relatively harmless and it is possible to use the app safely; however, it is important to have a conversation with your child about the power of words, even if they are anonymous, and how important it is to think about any possible consequences before they type.



Instagram (“IG”)

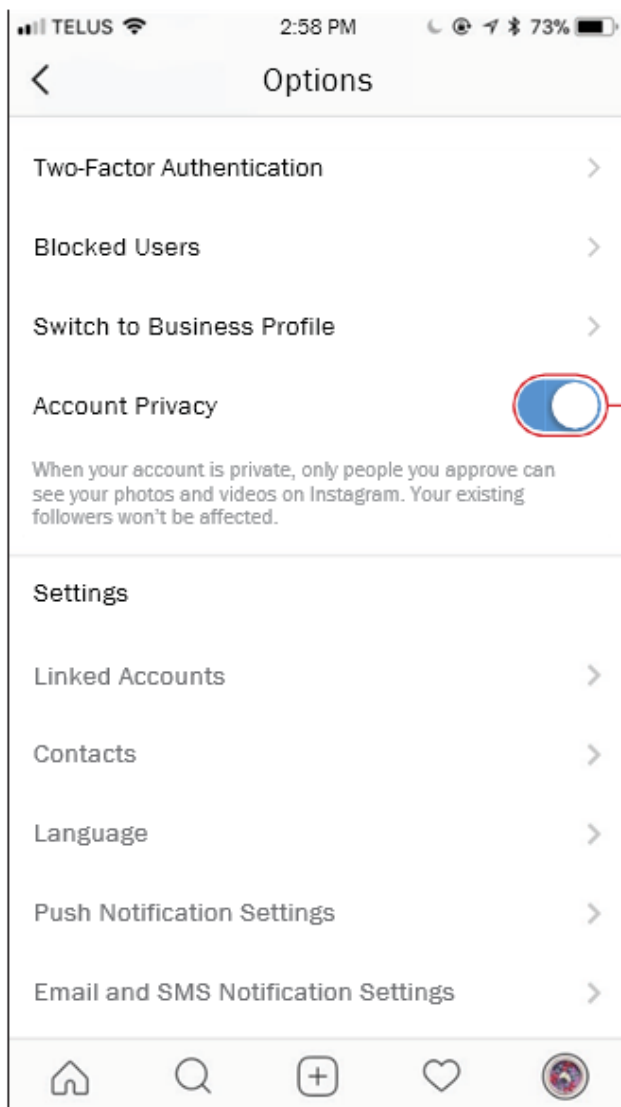


Owned by Facebook, the popular photo-sharing app, Instagram, has over 500 million monthly active users. If you see a youth scrolling up with their thumb on their smartphone looking at photos, chances are they are looking at Instagram.

Hashtags (#) are used often on this platform. This gives people a way to be introduced to and follow other users with similar interests.

Privacy Settings on Instagram

On Instagram, you either share your posts with everyone by having a public account or you have a private account and share only with people that you have (ideally) approved to follow you.



SUGGESTED PRIVACY

We recommend that *all* students should have a private Instagram account for safety reasons. The exception might be a grade 11-12 student wanting to build their digital brand and establish an account that university recruiters and employers can find.

Enable Private Account

Instagram Stories

Users can post videos and/or photos for their followers to see which are visible for 24 hours. You can also send videos and/or photos that will disappear after being viewed once. This concept was copied from the very popular Snapchat usage and has quickly gained usage among youth. Users can see who has watched their Instagram stories.

IGTV

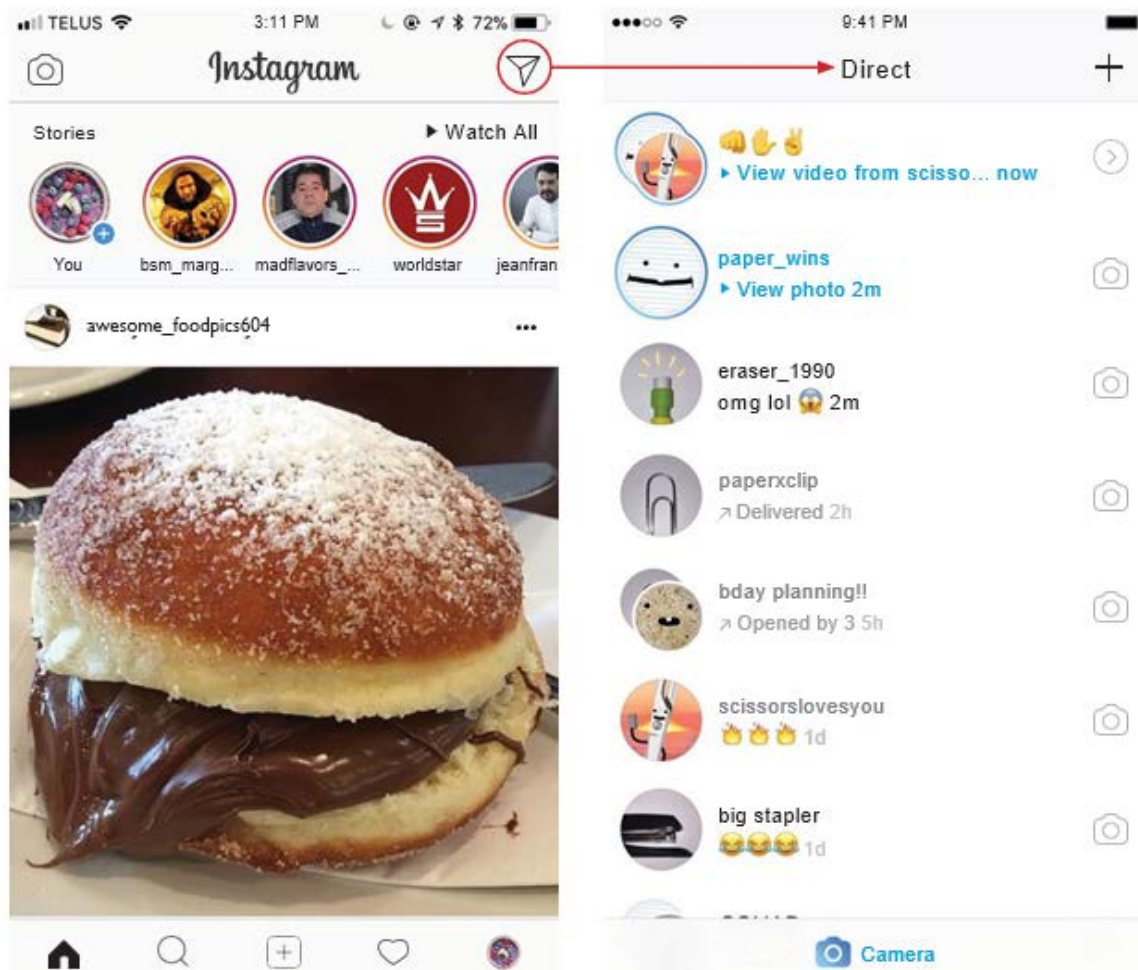
Instagram also joined the live broadcasting market and allows IG users to live stream videos to their followers. If your profile is public, anyone can watch these videos.

Reels

Reels have recently been added to Snapchat – these are short videos with music included very similar to the style of TikTok videos.

Direct Messaging

Direct messaging is a private message inbox within the IG app. This is a feature that allows users to privately communicate similar to text messaging. This is where children can receive private messages from their friends, participate in group chats, or even receive messages from strangers. There is no way to turn the direct messaging off at this time.



TikTok



Formerly known as Musical.ly, TikTok is currently the world's most popular video-sharing social networking application and is centered around short videos typically made to popular songs. TikTok reigned as the most downloaded app (33 million downloads) in Apple's App Store for five quarters and with over 1.5 billion downloads as of 2019, it is not going away any time soon.

TikTok has strategically marketed to younger audiences, and although users must be 13 years of age to sign up, the content isn't being filtered. Age-inappropriate content inevitably is reaching 41% of its' estimated audience that are between the ages of 16 and 24 as well as potentially younger audiences.



As of 2019, the average time a user spent on TikTok was 52 minutes per day. This time is spent either creating and sharing short videos of themselves or watching the existing plethora of TikTok videos uploaded to the platform already. Either way, it's being done for almost an hour every day. This time is similar to amounts spent on other social media platforms and apps such as Instagram (53 minutes) and Snapchat (49.5 minutes).

There is also a growing number of adults on TikTok. In less than 18 months, the number of U.S. adult TikTok users grew from 2.6 million adult users in October 2017 to 14.3 million in March of 2019. The unfortunate part about more and more adults joining the app is that they are not necessarily there to create a safe space for kids, and may not even realize that children of potentially all ages, if not just from ages 13 to 18, can see the content they choose to post. Although TikTok states in their Terms of Service that any inappropriate content will be taken down by moderators, it may take hours, days, or even not at all. This is something to consider when keeping in mind that more than 1 billion TikTok videos were viewed **every day** in the last year.

Recently, there was word of TikTok being banned in the U.S., however, there seems to have been a somewhat private arrangement between shareholders and the White House to keep the app running in the U.S.

There are a couple of different apps to look out for that are similar to TikTok such as Triller – an American-based app with over 120 million downloads and the ability to share videos to music and sounds just like you would on TikTok.

YouTube



PewDiePie, Logan and Jake Paul, James Charles, iDubbbz, Trisha Paytas, and Filthy Frank: these names may not be familiar to you, but if your child spends time on YouTube, they have likely come across videos by these YouTube “famous” video creators before.

The over-the-top humor, outrageous pranks, and downright obscene content have made these YouTube creators extremely popular and influential. Owned by Google, consider YouTube the Google of Video. Created in 2005, YouTube is currently the most visited website in the world with over 5 billion videos watched per day. YouTube can be used as a way for children to pass the time, express themselves, learn new skills, and watch content they enjoy such as sports, video games, etc. However, it can also be very easy to cross over into watching less than appropriate topics and content. Parents need to set parameters on video watching and moderate access to age-appropriate videos.



GTA 5 FAILS & WINS #48 (GTA 5 Funny Moments Compilation/Epic Moments)

RanGO Games • 339K views • 1 week ago

GTA 5 FAILS & WINS - #48 (GTA 5 Funny Moments Compilation)



MY GIRLFRIEND FOUND MY SIDE CHICKS UNDERWEAR...

Jake Paul • 2.6M views • 1 day ago

I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME SUBSCRIBE ► <http://bit.ly/SUB2JAKEPAUL> | ☆ PREVIOUS VLOG ► <https://www.youtube.com/>

New



100 ACCURATE LIFE HACKS

TVFilthyFrank • 20M views • 2 years ago

Most life hacks don't REALLY help in real life situations. That's why I set out on a journey to find the most efficient life hacks. Thanks

These are just a few examples of some of the videos that could potentially appear as “Suggested Videos” on the front page upon visiting YouTube.

You can watch Youtube passively without being logged into an account, or you can sign in to track the type of videos that you watch, like, and subscribe to channels, and upload your videos.

Uploading Content – Privacy Settings

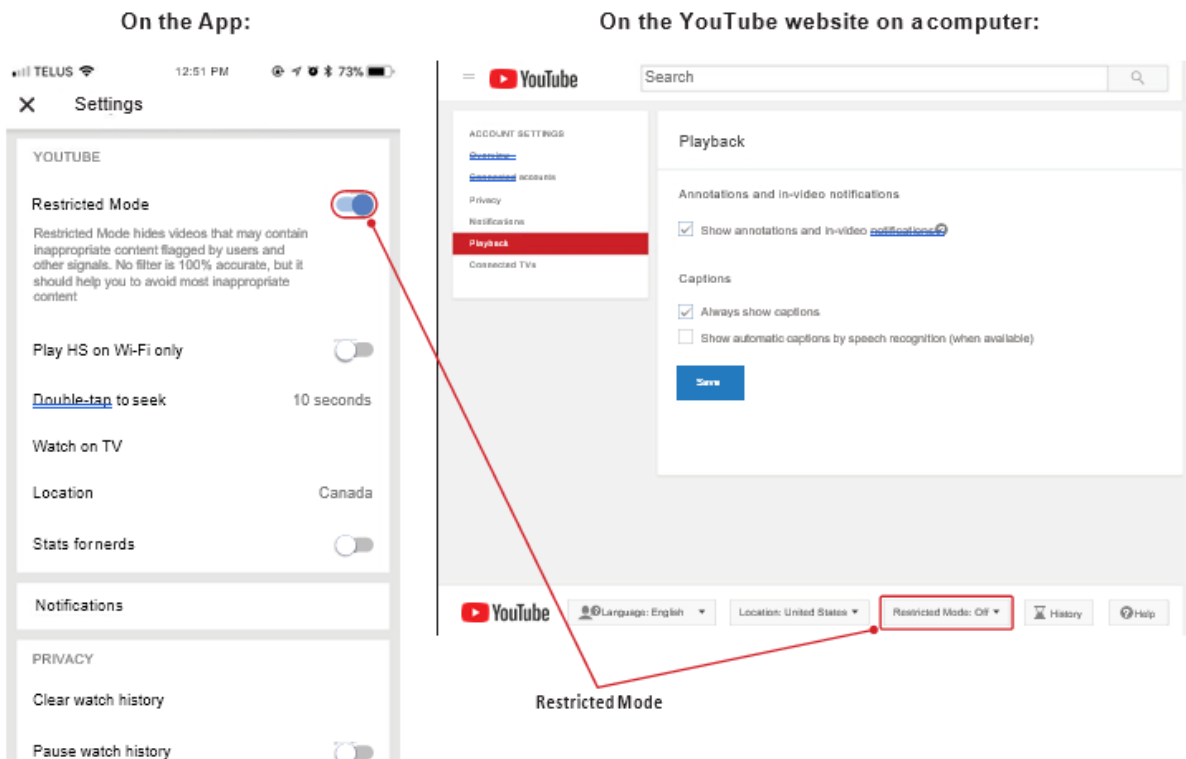
- For one to create an account, the minimum age requirement is 13 years old. This age parameter, like all others on social media sites, is not typically monitored or enforced.
- When uploading videos, there are three different modes of video privacy – public, private, and unlisted.
- Public videos can be searched, watched, and shared with anyone in the world. Private videos can only be seen by the uploader and users that they choose. Unlisted videos can only be viewed and shared by users who have a direct link to the video.

Controlling Inappropriate Content from Being Viewed

- Remember: no moderation or filtering solution is 100% foolproof and there is always the possibility of exposure to mature content.
- The best solution YouTube offers on its website/app is being logged into a Google account (YouTube is owned by Google) and turning on “Restricted Mode”.
- “Restricted Mode” is an optional setting that you can use to help screen out potentially mature content that you may prefer not to see or don’t want others in your family to see.

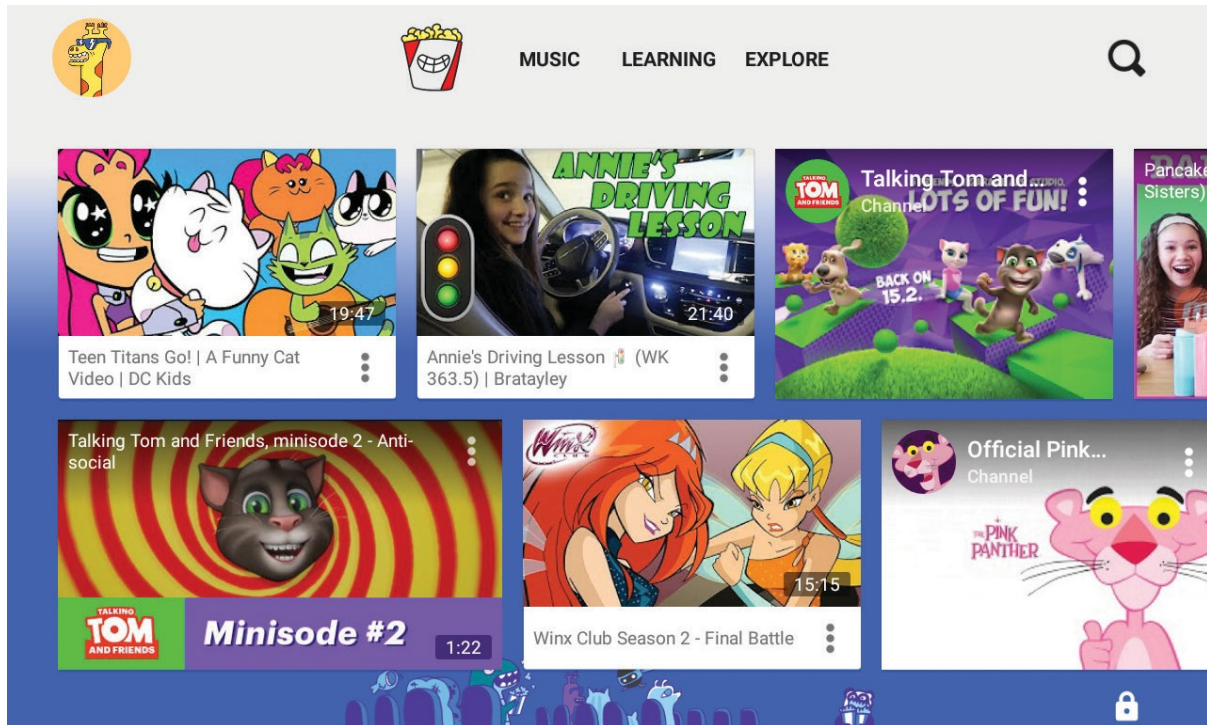


- Access the settings on the phone by opening the YouTube app and tapping on the display picture in the top right.
- From there, the settings can be accessed. “Restricted Mode” can block content that has been flagged by other users for inappropriate content.
- In the “My Channel” option, users can also change who can view things like your child’s liked videos, created playlists, and subscriptions.



YouTube Kids

For younger audiences, YouTube has created an app that is specifically aimed at youth from approximately ages 3-8. The videos are heavily censored and focus more on family-friendly entertainment and learning. YouTube Kids is a separate app and must be set up using an adult's email address. From there, the adult can choose profiles for their children. They can even control in-app searching. You can set up kid profiles and set viewing timers. This can be a good platform to introduce our youngest to digital media on our terms.



Kid Profiles

Create up to eight kid profiles, each with their own viewing preferences, video recommendations, and settings.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Blocking

Find a video or channel you don't want your kid to watch? Block it to automatically remove it from all of your kids' profiles.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Watch History

Find a video or channel you don't want your kid to watch? Block it to automatically remove it from all of your kids' profiles.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Search Control

Turn search on so kids can access more videos. Turn search off for a more contained experience.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Timer

Set up a timer to put limits on how long your kids can play with the app.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Video Reporting

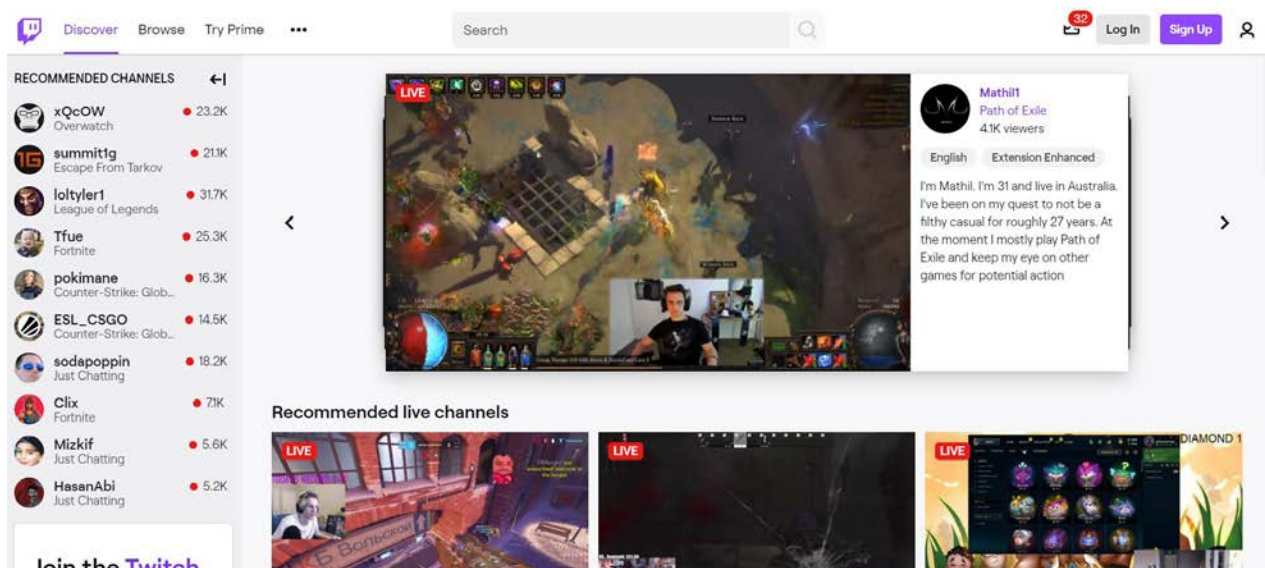
Alert us immediately by reporting videos that shouldn't be in the app. The video will be sent to us for fast review.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Twitch



Twitch is a video live streaming service that primarily focuses on video games. During a stream, there is a streamer who is the person conducting the broadcast, with or without live webcam footage, typically playing a video game. Watchers can chat with the streamer and other watchers in the stream's live chat log, in which other viewers can type back, or the streamer may respond by voice. More than 28 billion chat messages have been sent using Twitch. The average Twitch user can be found using Twitch for 95 minutes per day which can include watching or streaming themselves, and an average of 46 billion minutes of streams watched per month throughout the world, which is shared between 3.7 million broadcasters.



Twitch is generally free to watch and following streamers is also a free feature, however, there are certain paid subscriptions that you can use to give the broadcaster a set amount of money per month to support their stream, as well as single-time donation payments called 'donations' and 'bits'. These can be purchased for real-world currency through the Twitch website/app and spent within the site on any streamer/broadcaster.

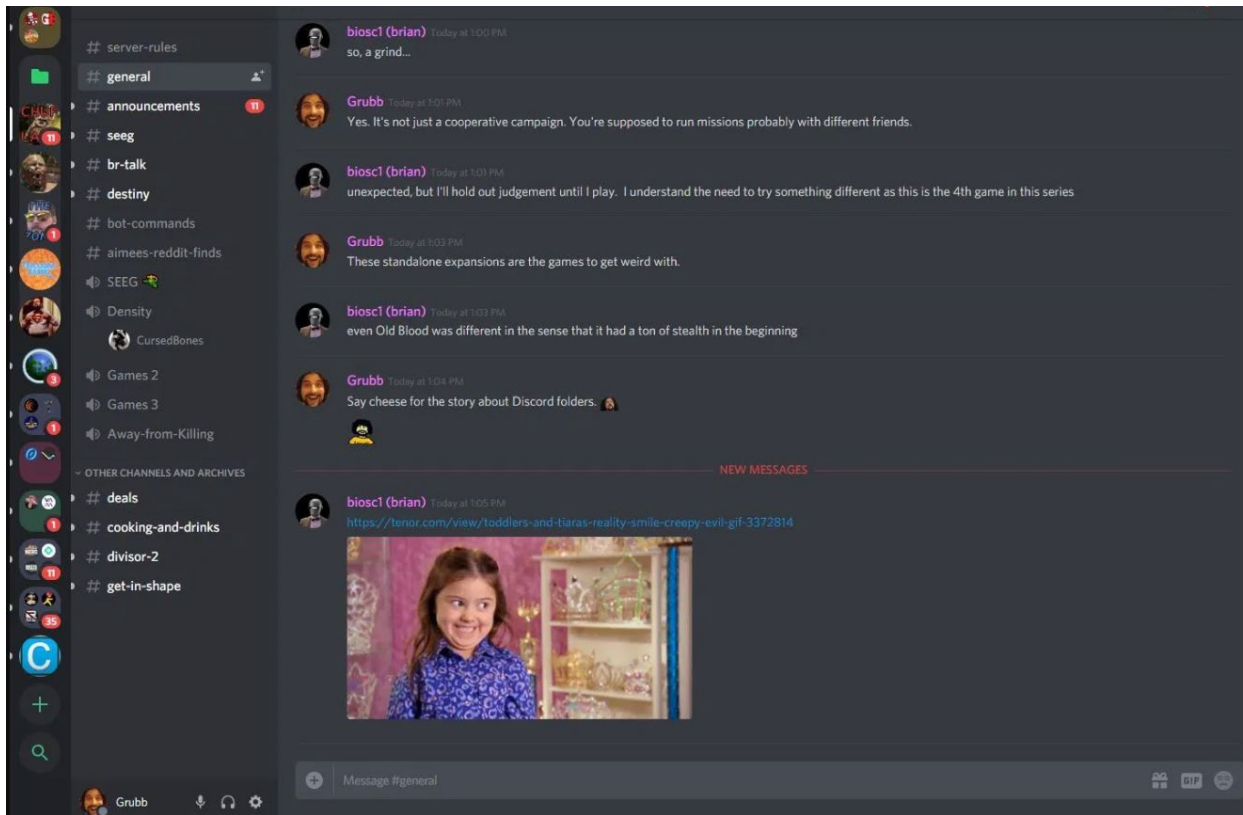
Because Twitch is owned and operated by Amazon, any user with an Amazon Prime account is eligible for Twitch Prime and is given one free subscription pass (worth \$4.99) per month. This can be used in the same way a regular subscription is used.

Discord



Discord is a free voice and messaging application that is available for both desktop and browser, as well as a mobile application (iOS and Android). Typically, Discord is used as a space for gamers to chat either by instant message, voice chat, or video chat.























Within Discord, users can create or join 'servers' where they can invite as many people as they would like to engage in chat together. Voice chat can be used as either open mic or push-to-talk, where others will only be able to hear you by enabling voice via the designated button on the keyboard or mouse. Users can also share their computer screens within Discord, which is especially popular when 'streaming' (a live video of the gameplay and/or webcam footage of the player).



Discord is one of the only encrypted messaging applications which means everything that is posted or said through Discord can remain anonymous. Users can sign up without a verified email address and can use whichever name they want. Discord servers can be set up with different levels of privacy and security. Each Discord server has its distinct web address (link) and can only be joined if that link is shared.

The “Rules” (that no one follows):

Popular Social Media Services User Minimum Age Agreements

-  Snapchat - 13 years old
-  WeChat - 13 years old
-  Twitter - 13 years old
-  Facebook Messenger - 13 years old
-  Facebook - 13 years old
-  Discord - 13 years old
-  Twitch - 13 years old
-  TikTok - 13 years old
-  Reddit - 13 years old
-  Pinterest - 13 years old
-  Tumblr - 13 years old
-  IMVU - 13 years old
-  Omegle - 13 years old *with parents' consent
-  YouTube - 13 years old *with parents' consent and 18 years old without
-  Periscope - 16 years old
-  Whatsapp - 16 years old
-  WeChat - 18 years old
-  Kik - 18 years old
-  Tinder - 18 *do not need Facebook login
-  Bumble (dating/friendship app) - 18
-  Hinge (dating app) - 18
-  Grindr (dating app for m+m) – 18

Vault Apps

Vault Apps are mobile applications designed to hide private photos, videos, or other applications on a device usually by using the icon of another app such as a calculator, camera, or notes. Vault apps are popular among teens in order to protect their mobile privacy to use app locking, private bookmarks, incognito browsing, cloud backup, and more, however teens should be reminded that using technology is a privilege and not a right and they are not entitled to full privacy on their device for their own safety.

Showing results for “secret photo vault”



Internet, Texting, and Social Media Lingo & Slang 2020

Lingo	Translation	Lingo	Translation
Lit	Cool/Awesome	DTF	Down to f**k
Extra	Over-the-top	Tho	Though
Fire	Cool/Awesome	Emo	Emotional
Shade	Disrespectful manner	VSCO Girl	Girls that use VSCO
Go-Off	To hype someone up	Mukbang	Popular eating videos
Low-Key	Quiet/Modest	WYA	Where are you at?
Salty	Being upset over nothing	Faded	Drunk/intoxicated
Stan	A crazed fan	Fave/Fave	Favorite
Thirsty	A synonym for someone who is sexually eager	Oof	Onomatopoeia when something bad happens
Tea	Gossip	Cancelled	Bas publicity
Shook	Shocked/Surprised	FML	F*** my life
Wig	Cool/Awesome	KMS/KYS	Kill myself/Kill yourself
Big Yikes	Uh oh	Dead	Funny/Unbelievable
AMA	Ask me anything	FWB	Friends with benefits
ASL	Age/Sex/Location	GTG/G2G	Got to go
Fit	Outfit	Bet	I agree
No cap	No lie	Flex	Showing off
BF/GF	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	BFF	Best friend forever
F4F	Follow for follow	Slay	Succeed
HundoP	100% sure about something	Roasted	To be dissed
Fierce	Awesome/Positive Spirit	BTW	By the way
Thicc	A sexualized term for a desirable body	qq	A texting term for crying
Squad	Group of friends	Weak	Amused

Finsta/Spams	A secondary social media account	Yeet	To discard an item at a high velocity
Cray	Crazy	Mood	Relatable
Cuffed	To be locked down in a relationship	Deets	Details
TBH	To be honest	DGAF	Don't give a f***
DM	Direct message	RN	Right now
GTFO	Get the f*** out	HBD	Happy Birthday
Handle	Social media username	HMU	Hit me up
Hella	A lot/really	HBU	How about you
NP	No problem	IDC	I don't care
IDK	I don't know	IG	Instagram
Snap	Snapchat	IMO	In my opinion
ILY/ILU	I love you	IMU	I miss you
JK	Just kidding	LOL	Laughing out loud
MOFO	Mother F*****	Molly	MDMA
NBD	No big deal	Noob	Inexperienced
NM	Nothing much/Not Much	NVM	Never mind
OMW	On my way	POV	Point of view
PPL	People	RT	Retweet
Selfie	Picture of yourself	Sick	Crazy/Awesome
STFU	Shut the f*** up	Stoked	Excited
Story	Social media feature where you can add photos/videos that are viewable for 24 hours	Swag	Being or having something cool
YOLO	You only live once	Troll	Internet bully
TXT	Text	TTYL	Talk to you later
W/E	Whatever	Taking a L	Taking a loss
Cyber	Sex online	WDYM	What do you mean

If you have any questions about lingo or slang and their respected translations, please contact Safer Schools Together toll-free at 1-866-554-0848 or usainfo@saferschoolstogether.com

Video Games



Video Gaming

Video games with mature content advisories used to be tightly policed by retailers across the continent using the ratings guide below, similar to age restrictions on R-Rated movies. Unfortunately, alongside the proliferation of technology growth and unlimited access to video content, enforcement of these ratings is non-existent. It's not uncommon to hear of some parents deciding to buy Grand Theft Auto for their 12-year-old when they've asked! Grand Theft Auto V has in-game exposures to graphic violence, sexual content, alcohol and drug abuse, and strong language.

The Bad News

Research generally suggests that prolonged exposure to violent video games can make people feel more aggressive, desensitized to violence, and feel less empathetic.

The Good News

Video games can provide several possible cognitive benefits including increasing response time performance and hand-eye coordination, practice in visual-spatial skills, stronger visual memory, becoming better at pattern recognition, and using trial and error to problem solve more often.

Moral of the Story

Content matters! As parents, we need to be involved in which games our children are playing. Enforcing time limits and self-regulation while minimizing the exposure to inappropriate and violent content is important. We want to reinforce prof-social games that can test and grow our children's creativity and enhance cognitive skills.

The Ratings Guide from the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB)

ESRB ratings have three parts:

- **Rating Categories** suggest age appropriateness
- **Content Descriptors** indicate content that may have triggered a particular rating and/or may be of interest or concern
- **Interactive Elements** inform about interactive aspects of a product, including the users' ability to interact, the sharing of users' location with others, if in-app purchases of digital goods are completed, and/or if unrestricted internet access is provided

RATING CATEGORIES



CONTENT DESCRIPTORS



2020 Top 10 Most Violent Video Games

1. Until Dawn
2. Mortal Kombat Seires
3. Grand Theft Auto Series
4. Red Dead Redemption 2
5. God of War
6. DOOM
7. Resident Evil Series
8. Call of Duty Series
9. GORN
10. Hellblade

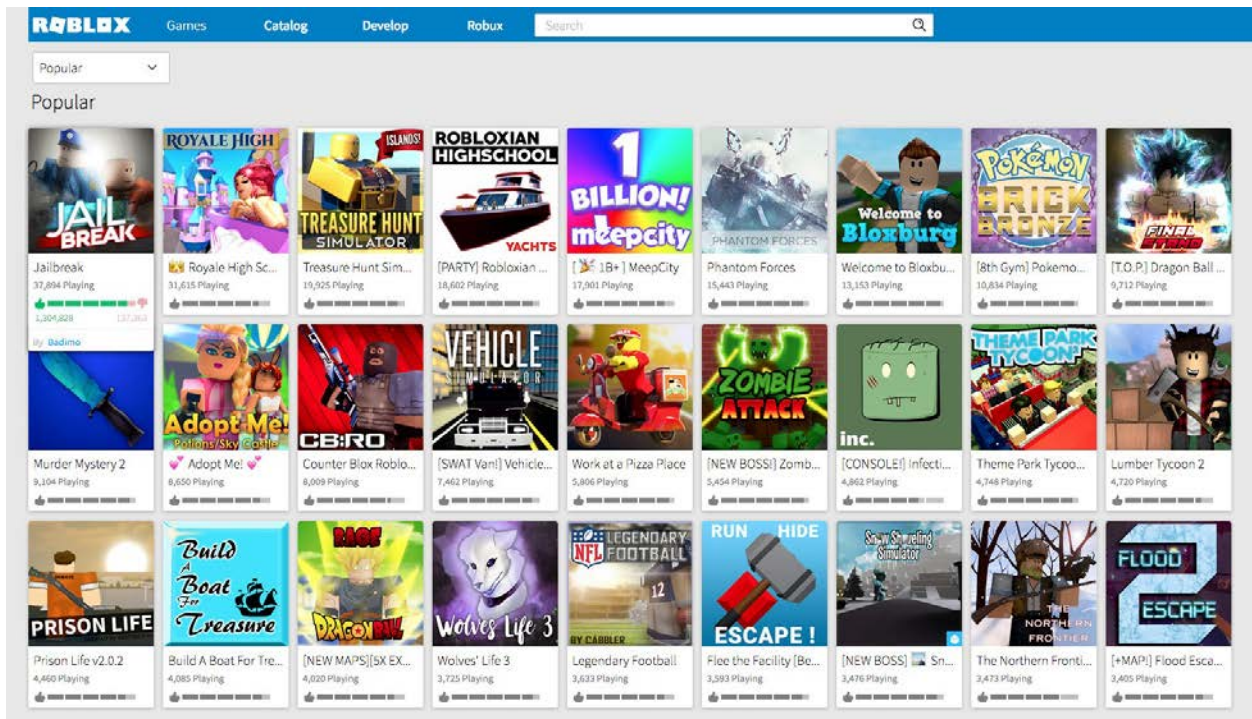
We encourage parents to do their research on any video games before allowing your children to play them. A detailed description of all of the above games can be found through Google online.

Two of the most popular games played by our youngest children aged 4-13 are Roblox and Minecraft. Both of these games can be played in single-player as well as Multiplayer Online. It is a multiplayer mode that includes chat and messaging features, which parents should be aware of and monitor at their discretion.

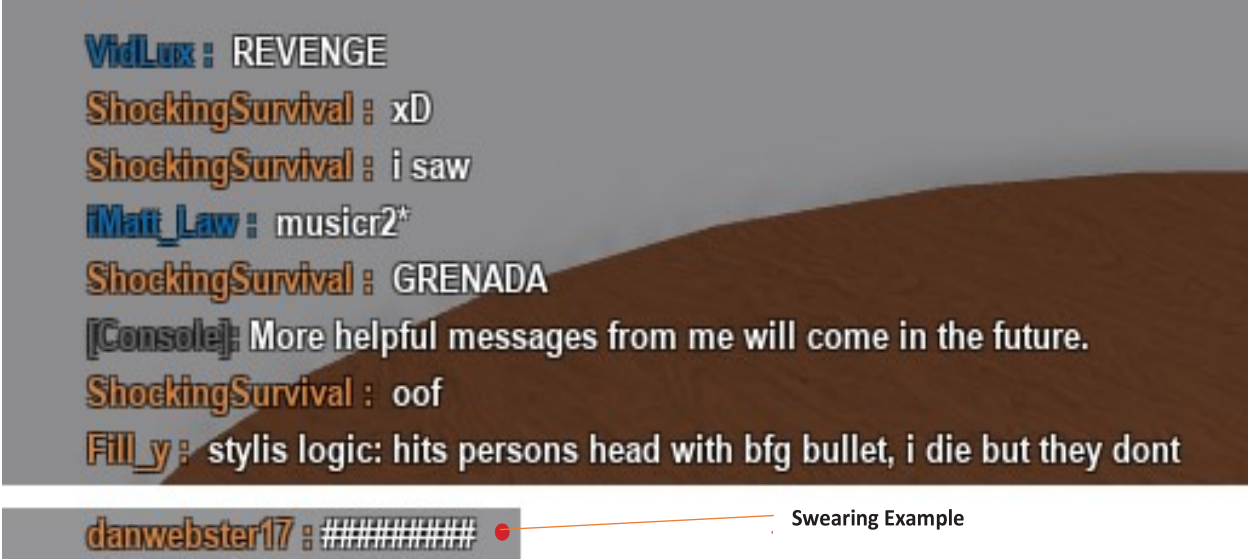
ROBLOX



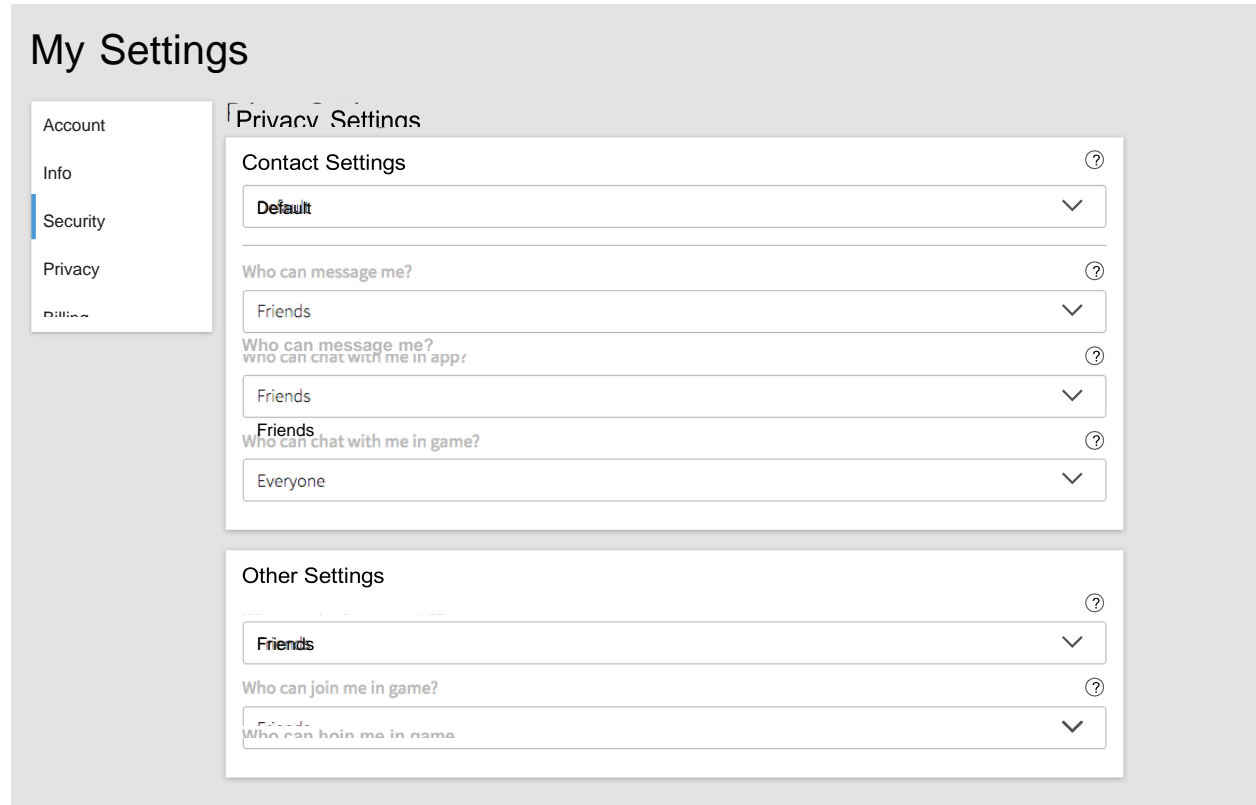
Roblox is a downloadable interactive game platform that allows users to play multiple types of games inside the Roblox world. It is a creative, Lego-style sandbox environment.



Roblox has built-in capabilities for friends lists, messaging users, and in-game chat. The chat function works differently depending on your age, for users 13 and under, the chat is built off a list of “whitelisted” words, preselected by the developers as safe for children to use. If you are over 13 (or set your birthday so it appears you are) then chat is more open-ended, however, there is still a built-in “blacklist” function that attempts to keep curse words and derogatory terms out of the chat.



Roblox privacy settings also permit us to control who is allowed to interact with our child. The user can adjust whether everyone, friends, or no one has access to communicate both inside games, and using the platform's messaging system. By setting the appropriate age category and ensuring privacy settings are updated, parents can limit the interaction of users with the account.





MINECRAFT

Minecraft

Minecraft is one of the most accessible video games available, as it has sold more than 50 million copies across PC, game consoles (Xbox and Playstation), and smartphones. It is very easy to learn and can be played anywhere. It can be played either in the online world or offline. We have seen 4 years olds building Minecraft maps.

Game Modes

Survival

The player can level up, search for resources, and craft different weapons or tools. They have to fight hunger, and monsters at nighttime.

Hardcore

Same mode as survival but the player only gets one life.

Creative

The user cannot die and has access to all the blocks and items available. With this, they can create whatever they feel like. The player also has the ability to fly to get from place to place faster.



An example of what a Minecraft house can look like.



Players online can work together to build some amazing creations. Each block was individually placed to create this.



Online Play and Chat

Multiplayer allows an individual to play alongside friends. They can build, mine, create, and even fight each other in some servers. All of the game modes that exist in single-player exist in multiplayer, as well as the game difficulties. Players are always prompted to choose between single-player or multiplayer. When playing multiplayer, the user must select the server they wish to play on. When playing on an open server the user can interact with anyone else. This includes the chat function as displayed below.



Minecraft does have child-friendly servers available, which you have to request to be added to. This ensures random players will not come into the servers as they will not have access. Single-player is the safest option, as no one can join or chat with a single-player user.

Moral of the Story

Minecraft is an appropriate game for children to be playing, especially in Creative Mode.

Fortnite



Fortnite is arguably the most popular video game available today with an estimated growth of 4% in 2020 bringing the gross revenue of the game to a whopping \$124.8 billion dollars not long after the game's initial release in 2017 by Epic Games. Fortnite is available to download for free on PC, game consoles (Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch, and as a mobile game on iOS and Android).

Game Modes

Fortnite: Battle Royale

A Battle Royale game mode allows up to 100 players to compete in a player-versus-player setting. Players can play alone (solo), with a friend (duo), or in a group of 4 (squad). The objective is to pick up weapons (guns), ammunition, and bandages to kill off other players and be the 'last man standing'. Players can hide out in buildings and even collect resources to build their structures and traps. The game type is much like that of laser tag.



Fortnite: Save the World

This game mode allows 4 players to work together towards a common objective on various missions against zombie-like husks. Some of the objectives include fighting off the computer-generated “zombie husks”, save survivors, and defend equipment.



Fortnite Creative

Creative mode in Fortnite is much like other Creative Modes which acts as a sandbox game that allows players to build maps with free reign on what to put in their game, different types of game modes, and game time.



Although Fortnite is technically 'free-to-play', it is important to note that Fortnite is a game with microtransactions. Players can opt-in to purchase a game pass that gives them special items, allows them to earn certain achievements, and gives them 'loot boxes' which are boxes to open that include things such as special emotes, dances, and skins to use in-game. The currency in this game is called "V-Bucks".



Online Play and Chat

Players can communicate in-game through both a text chat function as well as a voice-chat function if a speaker and microphone are hooked up. Players can mute other players if they do not wish to hear from them or can mute themselves if they do not wish to be heard. There is no moderation in either the text chat or the voice chat functions.

Moral of the Story

Fortnite should be played with close parental supervision by kids who are emotionally mature enough to handle the content of the game. Fortnite should not be played by children who are not at an age that is equipped to handle un-moderated text or voice chat.

Doxing

Doxing is most commonly known for its use in association with video games that have online multiplayer capabilities, but has also become popularized among other subcultures of the internet such as forums, live streaming sites, and even mainstream social media. It's important to be aware of doxing when using any form of the internet and understand how it can be prevented.

Doxing is a form of abuse online where identifying or sensitive information of an individual is released online with malicious intent. Typically information such as one's first and last name, home and/or work address, family members, or even banking information is revealed to the internet in an attempt to intimidate the victim or even subject them to dangerous and vulnerable positions both online and in the real world. Motivations of doxing can include personal, competitive, or political reasons. Doxing does not discriminate, and web users of all ages, genders, and internet experience can be targeted. Doxing is also one of the few forms of cyberattacks that can cause direct, serious, and lasting harm to its victims.

Searching and obtaining an individual's publicly-available information and even re-posting it online is not technically considered a cybercrime or attack, however, doxing can become illegal if this publicly-available or private information is obtained through illegal methods such as hacking or extortion. Other factors that may cause doxing to cross the line into illegality is harassing or intimidating the victim, invading their privacy, or having the victim assaulted.

In order to avoid having your information doxed, it's important to follow a few best practices of using the internet, including any video games that your child may be playing:

- Don't use legal or identifying first, middle, or last names as username
- Don't post photos or videos of the interior or exterior of your home that may include identifiers such as your address, where your doors, windows, or bedrooms are located within the property, license plates, or locks.
- Don't post photos or videos with any identifying factors to your child's school such as the school name, class schedules and times, or classmates faces that have not given permission for their photo or video to be shared.
- If you are going to leave your home for an extended period of time such as a vacation, be cautious about who you share this information with including the dates that no one will be home.
- Don't list day, month, or year of birthday publicly
- Don't post photos or videos of your computer screen, desk station, or any other personal area where you may expose sensitive information such as mail, bank statements, contracts, or personal photos.
- Be cautious of identifying factors to the clothing you wear in photos or videos you choose to share such as school hoodies or uniforms, work uniforms, after school programs, or local causes.
- Always set accounts to private when possible in order to control who you are allowing to view your photos, videos, and other information you choose to share online.