



Gaming Safety

Helping your child stay safe while gaming starts with being involved. You don't need to be a gaming expert—just showing an interest and asking questions can go a long way.

Get to know the games



Ask your child what they're playing and why they like it. Before buying a new game, take a few minutes to look up its rating, content and whether it's age-appropriate. You can also watch short gameplay videos online to get a feel for what it's like.

Understand the tech



Kids often play on consoles, phones, tablets or computers, and many games allow players to connect across devices. Learn about the settings and privacy options on the systems that your child uses. These can help you manage who they interact with and what they can access.

Keep gaming visible



Keep consoles and devices in shared spaces like the living room or kitchen. It's easier to keep an eye on things and encourages open conversations. Also, be aware of where else your child might be gaming—like at a friend's house.

Talk about privacy



Remind your child not to share personal information while gaming. That includes their real name, age, school or location—even in usernames or profiles. And make sure they know never to meet up in person with someone they've only met online.

Set clear boundaries



Decide together how much time they can spend gaming, what types of games are okay and who they can play with. Use parental controls to help enforce these rules, and consider setting up a PIN so settings can't be changed without your approval.

Be cautious about purchases



Before your child uses a credit or debit card online, have them check with you first. Turn off auto-save features for payment information on gaming devices to avoid surprise charges.

Know how to report issues



Many games have tools to report inappropriate behavior or content. Go over these features with your child so they know what to do if something feels off.

Have a discussion with your child

Ask these simple questions to start the conversation:

- Would you show me how to play your favorite games? Could we play together?
- How do you respond if someone bothers you while you're gaming?
- How much do you let people know about you while gaming?
- What kinds of people do you game with?
- Do you feel safe while you're gaming online? Why or why not?



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