

The information below stems from <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> which is an online guide to apps, games and social media sites. This site explains, very clearly, ways to develop a good understanding of how best to keep your child safe when using certain apps, games or sites as well as questions and discussions you should be having with them to ensure they are aware how to stay safe online and what to do if they ever feel uncomfortable.

Game, app or site	Icon	Age rating	Information for parents
TikTok		13+	<p>Family Pairing (previously Family Safety Mode) lets you link you link your child’s TikTok account to your own so you can help manage</p> <p><b>Screen Time Management:</b> how long your child can spend on TikTok each day.</p> <p><b>Direct Messages:</b> who can send messages to your child’s account or turn off direct messages completely.</p> <p><b>Restricted Mode:</b> restrict certain types of content that you think isn’t appropriate for your child and switch off the search function.</p> <p><b>Privacy Settings:</b> decide whether your child's account is private or public.</p> <p><b>Disable Comments:</b> switch off comments on your child's post or set them to friends only.</p> <p><b>Search:</b> decide whether your child can search for content, users, hashtags, or sounds.</p> <p><b>Liked Videos:</b> decide who can see the videos your child likes on TikTok.</p> <p>These tools are handy at helping parents keep their children safe on TikTok, but we think it's best to start with a conversation about staying safe online. If you’re worried about TikTok – or even just interested – ask your child why they use it, what they like and dislike, and different ways to stay safe while on it.</p>
Granny		Variety of ratings from 7+ to 18+	<p>According to common sense media, parents need to know that Granny is a free-to-play indie horror game with grotesque art, blood, and jump scares. The game does not have a privacy policy and it refers to a lot of gruesome and explicit imagery throughout. There is a lot of discussion regarding the age appropriateness of this game as to whether it should be a 12+ or an 18. Many parents who have viewed this call for it to be an 18 because of the way it allows children to become desensitised to violence including cannibalism and murder. This game has also been replicated in Roblox allowing for many children to access this violent content via an app designed for much younger children.</p>

Fortnite		12+	<p>Fortnite is a multiplayer game that lets you play with up to 100 players. Net Aware advice on Fortnite warns parents the game features cartoon violence, where players can use a variety of weapons, such as guns and axes, to kill other players, despite being rated as suitable for players aged 12+ by The App Store. There are communication features available so your players can talk to each other while playing. This means there is a risk your child could talk to someone they don't know.</p> <p>There are <b>parental controls</b> available within Fortnite that let you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Switch off mature language filters.</li> <li>Decide whether your child can accept friend requests.</li> <li>Disable voice chat.</li> <li>Disable text chat.</li> </ul> <p>You can access these by selecting 'Parental controls' on the right-hand corner of the screen on your child's account. You will then be able to set up a pin that will be required to change parental controls in the future. We would also recommend setting up parental controls via Epic Games and on your child's device.</p>
Streetfighter		12+	<p>In the UK and Europe, PEGI rates Street Fighter V a 12 for violence in a sporting context and mild bad language. The GRA expand on their PEGI details by saying that the game was given a 12 rating for 'frequent, non-realistic violence against human characters and the use of offensive language and mild swearing'. Several expletives can be heard on this app. Violence is 'highly stylised' with 'no permanent visible damage'. Online play involves interacting with other people online, and parents should be aware of this and the risks that this too can involve.</p>
Roblox		7+	<p>Roblox has clear guidance for parents via its Parent Portal and there are a number of features on the app that can help keep your child safer. Players have different safety settings and experiences based on their age so it's important your child signs up with their correct age. Parents are also able to view their child's history, including who they've been chatting to and messaging, what games they've been playing and any in-app purchases. You can also limit the types of games a child can play by enabling 'Account Restrictions' and add a 'Parent PIN', which would be needed to make any changes to the account settings.</p>

			Some of the games on Roblox feature cartoon fighting with guns and swords that some children may find upsetting. There are also links to recreated versions of more inappropriate games which some children may find distressing (see granny).
Minecraft		7+	This is a puzzle-adventure game in which players mine pixelated landscapes to harvest stylized cube-like materials. From a first-person perspective, players traverse an “open-world” environment, avoid hazards, build new structures, and craft weapons (e.g., swords, axes, bows) to occasionally defend against monsters (e.g., zombies, wolves, skeletons, spiders). Though not encouraged, players can engage in violent acts such as lighting animals on fire and harming animals with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment. If the chat function is switched on, your child could come across negative comments or language that might upset them as well as the ability to speak to strangers.
Among us		7+	To win the game, the ‘imposter’ must kill the other players by shooting them, stabbing them or punching them in the face. There are no parental controls on the game. Players can choose to join a random game with people they don’t know or create their own private game with friends. It would be recommended to only let your child play with people they know, like friends from school. Among Us has a tool called Quick Chat that allows players to easily communicate with others without having to type via set symbols and statements. This helps to stop players from sharing personal information and keeps the conversation focused on the game. This is the only communication feature under 13s have access to, but over 13s do have the option to switch this off and use a text based open chat.
YouTube		13+	Content can easily be manipulated and shared on sites like YouTube. What starts off as watching a very harmless cartoon, like Peppa Pig or Shrek, can easily lead down a ‘rabbit hole’ which results in your child watching something very disturbing and inappropriate, full of swearing, pornographic material and violence. Take the time to explore YouTube’s safety information for parents and think about which features are right for your child. We would recommend switching on Restricted Mode and disabling the ‘autoplay’ feature to stop videos playing automatically after one has ended. This

			<p>helps children avoid the ‘rabbit hole’ aspect YouTube can result in which can often end with watching something that makes them feel uncomfortable. Make sure you revisit these settings regularly to see if anything has changed.</p> <p>Children are becoming more and more eager to access the digital world and be part of this sharing community. While there are many advantages of this, children need to be able to cope with the negative aspects of these sites too. Having a personal YouTube account, where shared videos can be commented on by the public, can easily result in negative comments. This becomes much harder to deal with the younger they are. YouTube is the most popular video site, but other good options offer built-in safety measures for children below the age of 13. Consider one of these, <a href="https://www.common sense media.org/lists/safe-chat-rooms-and-social-sites-for-kids">https://www.common sense media.org/lists/safe-chat-rooms-and-social-sites-for-kids</a></p> <p>According to Net-Aware, even though children creating their own videos can have several benefits, there are many risks involved too which involves oversharing (sharing personally identifiable content), disinhibition (where being behind a screen can lesson reality) and pressure (wanting to be similar or friends or influencers) . Children should be 13 or over to create their own account and conversations with your children regarding their reasons and clips should be open and regular.</p>
Instagram		13+	<p>Many children will use Instagram to follow their favourite influencers, celebrities or other accounts they find interesting. This means it’s hard to control the sort of content they’re seeing which means they might still come across something they find upsetting or that you don’t want to them to see. It is often difficult for children to be a discerning audience and will therefore see images shared by people as ‘real life’ rather than understanding this is an image that person wants you to see.</p>
WhatsApp		13+	<p>WhatsApp group chats mean your child might be added to conversations with people they don’t know, which could increase the chance they come across upsetting or negative messages; however, they could still see this from people they do know.</p> <p>WhatsApp default settings mean that anyone, including people outside your child’s phone contacts, can add them to group chats without their approval. To prevent this, we recommend</p>

			<p>changing the group chat settings from 'Everyone' to 'My Contacts Except...' and using the tick icon to select all contacts. Often, any WhatsApp update will automatically restore the default settings so regularly checking the settings you require are still in place will help to avoid any unwanted chat.</p> <p>The 'My Contacts Except...' option means only your child's phone contacts, except those you exclude, can add your child to groups. However, by selecting all contacts, it means that nobody should be able to add your child to a group chat without first sending them an invitation, which they'll need to accept before being added to a group chat.</p>
Snapchat		13+	<p>The Snapchat app lets you send photos, short videos or messages to your friends. Pictures and videos, known as 'Snaps', usually appear temporarily before disappearing, though they can be captured via screenshots. Snapchat has a feature called 'Snap Map' that tracks your exact location so your friends on the app can see where you are. It's important to check the privacy settings on your child's Snapchat account to make sure what they're posting is kept private or shared only with friends. We recommend only sharing things with friends and always keeping your location private. You can visit Snapchat Support for specific information on privacy settings.</p>
Grand Theft Auto (GTA)		18+	<p><b>This is a game which is strictly for adults (18+).</b> It contains a wide range of adult themes which are all inappropriate for children such as drug use, violence and prostitution.</p>
Call of Duty		18+	<p><b>This is also an adult game (18+)</b> due to the violent content of the game. There is the option to communicate with others and, as it is an adult game, this communication may also be inappropriate. Recently this game has expanded into Call of Duty Warzone. Warzone is still part of the COD series but now free to play online. Warzone also has a PEGI rating of 18 due to its content: the animation of the game is quite realistic and includes blood. It is worth noting that the aim of Warzone is to defeat other players by fighting against them, this could be with weapons or with a player's bare hands. After you are killed, you are shown a replay of the death. The reason for this age restriction is to stop children becoming desensitised to graphic content like this.</p>