Supporting safer gameplay for children

See top tips to empower children and young people to stay safe while gaming on PlayStation Network (PSN)
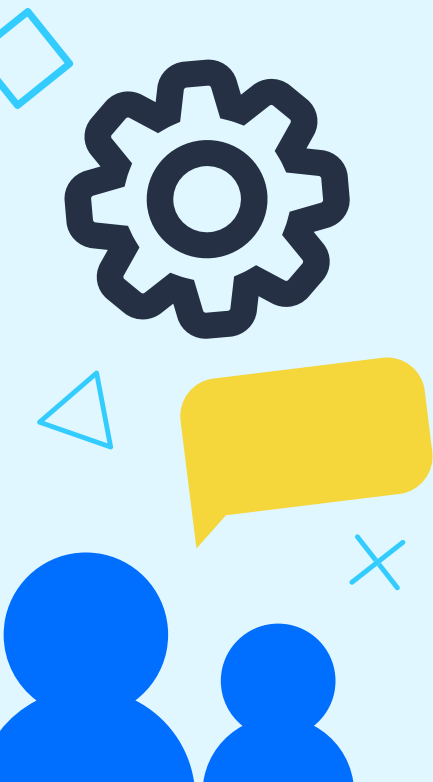
Online gaming has become children's digital playground, offering an immersive experience to support connections with friends and others through the use of in-game chat functions and the multiplayer and crossplay experiences.

As research shows that **60%* of children aged 3-17 play games online,** it's become increasingly important to empower them and their parents and guardians to use the tools available to them to personalise their gaming experience. PlayStation Network (PSN) is one of many platforms that allows children and young people to connect through shared play. It offers them a way to play, chat, create and share together while being supported with tailored settings to do it safely and smartly.

There is a clear benefit of socialising while gaming, and there are many tools available for younger players and their parents or guardians to tailor their experience to create a safe environment that works best for their families. Read this guide to learn more about PlayStation safety settings available to all players including the most vulnerable youngest players.

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Sony Interactive Entertainment

Get familiar with PlayStation Parental Controls

To help parents and guardians manage children and young people's experience on PlayStation consoles and PlayStation Network, you can utilise the family management features on the platform. These features are designed to help tailor each child's experiences according to their individual needs.

Every child account is linked to a parent account that is managed within the platform. Here is a range of things that you can manage as a 'family manager' of your child's account:

1. Setting **restrictions for age-appropriate** games

2. Setting a **monthly spend limit** for PlayStation Store

3. Allocating **when and how long** children can play

4. **Adjusting privacy settings** to stay in control of who children can share, create, chat and play with

5. **Access to web browsing** and **PlayStation VR** (Virtual Reality)

Visit the **PlayStation how-to guide** for step-by-step advice to get a child's account set up.

Top tips for safer interactions while gaming

1. Press play on conversations to have

Take time to have bitesize conversations about things that children should watch out for so they can stay safe and build up coping strategies on how to deal with them.

- Discuss **what personal information is** and why it's important to keep it private

- Make them aware that not everyone they play with is **who they say they are**

- Talk about **how to keep language and interactions positive** to create an inclusive space for everyone to play

- Discuss ways they can **recognise when they've been playing too much** (feeling angry, frustrated, or tired)

- Highlight the ways that some games encourage you to spend money, so they **understand how in-game spending works**

- Always **encourage them to seek support** from a trusted adult if they've seen something they are concerned about

- Together **explore how to report and block** things that may upset them on gaming platforms they use

See our **Game Safe guide** for more tips.

2. Play together to stay in the game

Play together to **create moments of shared experiences** and learn more about what your child likes to play, who they play with and what they enjoy most. Immersing yourself in their world will help you to give them more tailored advice about how to stay safe while gaming.

3. Set and review digital boundaries

To help children develop good gaming habits, **agree on a set of boundaries together** to give them guidance on who they can play with, games they can play and how long they're allowed to play. **Make use of parental controls** on the devices and platform they use to get started.

You can also use our [digital family agreement template](#) to record the rules.

We'd encourage you to display these rules near the device they use as a constant reminder.

4. Know your ratings

PEGI and ESRB ratings **help you choose age-appropriate games for children to play.** Both ratings on a game confirm that content is suitable for a certain age group and above.

Games with violent, sexual content or other adult/mature themes will have a higher rating. These ratings don't consider communication features, so a game with a low age rating may enable strangers to contact your child.

See our [age rating guide](#) more advice.

5. Celebrate gaming wins

Playing video games **can help children develop a range of skills from social to motor skills.** As well as keeping kids safe, find ways to encourage them the get the most out of their gaming experience. If they tend to play the same games regularly, find suggestions for other games that will challenge them but also help them develop other skills.

If it's something they'd like to do as a career, together explore ways into their chosen profession so they are informed.

Visit our [online gaming advice hub](#) to get tips to help children get the most out of gaming.