

# Online Gaming Safety Settings

*a quick guide for parents and educators*

Online games are a great source of enjoyment for children, but parents need to understand that online gaming environments can also expose children to strangers and inappropriate content. Online games can be accessed in multiple ways, including on dedicated gaming consoles, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Parents can help their children use online games in a safer way by talking to them about the risks, setting rules, and using parental controls. This guide lists the most important safety and privacy settings for the most popular gaming platforms used by teens, along with links to support pages describing how to implement these settings. More parenting advice on online gaming safety can be found here: <https://internetsafety101.org/gamingsafety>.



**Nintendo**

**Nintendo Switch** is a handheld gaming console that can play games both on the device and online. Users can choose from thousands of games, where they can play with others, create content, and use IM and voice chat. Nintendo Switch offers adult games and unfiltered communications, but also parental controls that can enforce game ratings, limit online contact, set time and spending limits, and monitor use.

Learn more: <https://play.nintendo.com/parents/>



**PlayStation**

**Sony PlayStation** is a hardware gaming console combined with an online ecosystem of thousands of games. Users can play offline or online games, chat, message, share content, and watch movies. PlayStation offers adult games and unfiltered communications, but also parental controls that can enforce game ratings, limit online contact, and set time and spending limits.

Learn more: <https://www.playstation.com/parental-controls>



**Xbox**

**Microsoft Xbox** is a hardware gaming console with access to thousands of games. Users can play offline or online games, chat, message, share content, and watch movies. Xbox offers adult games and unfiltered communications, but also parental controls that can enforce game ratings, limit online contact, set time and spending limits, and monitor use.

Learn more: <https://www.xbox.com/family-hub>



**Apple**

**Apple** offers both online and offline gaming on the company's Mac computers, iPad tablets, and iPhones. The Apple App Store offers about 200,000 games, including online multiplayer games. Apple does not allow adult-themed games on the App Store and has its own age-based rating system. Apple devices offer parental controls that can enforce age ratings, limit online contact, set time and spending limits, and monitor use.

Learn more: <https://www.apple.com/families/>



**Windows**

**Microsoft Windows** PCs are compatible with hundreds of thousands of online and offline games. Microsoft does not manage which games can be installed on Windows PCs, so games may include adult content. Microsoft offers Microsoft Family Safety, a free parental control app that can restrict which applications are installed, enforce age ratings, limit online contact, set time and spending limits, and monitor use.

Learn more: <https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-365/family-safety>



**Fortnite**

**Fortnite** is a very popular online gaming platform by Epic Games. Players in Fortnite can create their own environments and fight for survival against mythical creatures or against other online players. Players can send messages and engage in voice and video calls. Fortnite does not allow sexually explicit content. Fortnite offers controls that can enforce content restrictions, block communications, and set time limits.

Learn more: <https://safety.epicgames.com>



**Roblox**

**Roblox** is an online gaming platform that allows players to create and implement their own games. Roblox is very popular with young people, as over half of all children under sixteen have a Roblox account. Roblox prohibits sexually explicit content. Players can send messages and engage in voice calls. Roblox offers parental controls that can enforce age-appropriate content, block communications, and monitor use.

Learn more: <https://corp.roblox.com/families>








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This table lists important safety and privacy features for popular gaming environments, which includes dedicated gaming consoles, general hardware platforms like PCs, and large online gaming environments. The table is divided into three sections: policies enforced by the technology company, parental account options which a parent can enforce, and minor account settings, which a child can use. Where an option is available there is a “learn how” link to a documentation page with instructions on how to use the safety setting. The information in the table is current as of March 2025. This document may not reflect subsequent changes or updates.

	Gaming Consoles			Hardware Platforms		Online Platforms	
							
Company Policies	Nintendo	PlayStation	Xbox	Apple	Windows	Fortnite	Roblox
Policy prohibits sexually explicit content in games	✗	✗	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Requires age verification in the United States	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Enables age ratings for online games	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
<b>Parental Account Options</b>							
Parent can set up a linked supervision account	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can make account private	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	Not applicable	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can enforce content restrictions	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can set daily or weekly time limits	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can block access during specific hours	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗
Parent can set spending limits	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can limit contacts to approved list	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can see friends and messaging contacts	✗	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can limit or disable messages and comments	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can disable voice and video conversations	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can see which games were played	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Parent can view content or messages from child	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>Minor Account Options</b>							
Minor can mute and/or block individuals	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Minor can report inappropriate behavior	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>
Minor can request setting changes from parent	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>	✗	✓ <a href="#">Learn how</a>

For more information, visit [internetsafety101.org](https://internetsafety101.org).

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