

# GAMING: THE NEW SOCIAL NETWORK

TODAY, GAMING PLATFORMS ARE WHERE KIDS OFTEN LIKE TO HANG OUT, STAY CONNECTED, CHAT AND EVEN MAKE NEW FRIENDS.



## BE AWARE

Most game platforms today have **PUBLIC SPACES** with options for collaborative game play and chat with strangers.

Many game sites designed for children are a playground for older users with **MALINTENT**.

If your child is not a game/server host of a private game space, they **DON'T ALWAYS HAVE CONTROL** over who is let in to play.

Some popular games such as Roblox and Minecraft online worlds have been created by other users and may include **ADULT CONTENT** including sexual references, encourage violence or harmful content.



## BE PREPARED

Before allowing your child to play an online game, explore reviews on [commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews)

Review the official website for **PARENTAL ADVICE AND CONTROLS**.

Check the game classification for recommended **AGE LIMITS** and **CONTENT WARNINGS**.

Ensure game play occurs where you can **SEE AND HEAR** who your child is talking to (avoid headphones).

Encourage your children and their friends to develop **CODE WORDS** such as 'If I say monkey' friend must reply 'banana', to confirm it's a real offline friend.

Collaborate with your child to **SET TIME LIMITS** and make a list of other activities they can choose from when its time to switch off the technology.

Help your child understand **STRANGERS** and **TRICKY PEOPLE** online.



CYBER SAFETY PROJECT

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR GAMER SAFE ONLINE  
[cybersafetyproject.com.au/blog](https://cybersafetyproject.com.au/blog)