

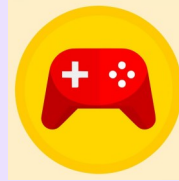


Online Safety

March 2024

Fortnite Battle Royale

Fortnite Battle Royale is rated PEGI 12 because it features moderate violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.



It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Fortnite does include a chat facility, which adds further risks.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including Battle Royale, which is free to play (although in-app purchases are available). In Battle Royale up to one hundred players compete against each other.

What do I need to be aware of?

Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language - Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour.

In app purchases: All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game so make sure you don't store your card details within the game/device and restrict purchases.

Parental Controls

Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings.

- **Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on.**

Further information

Virgin Media outline how to set up the different parental controls available

<https://www.virginmedia.com/blog/parental-controls/gaming-fortnite>



A useful tool for parents with children aged between 4 and 7 is the Jessie & Friends resource from the National Crime Agency's CEOP Education team.

This helps children to develop the skills and knowledge they need to help them stay safer when spending time online.

More details can be found here [4-7s-website](#)

Does your child need a mobile phone?

If you are considering giving your child a phone of their own, this article may give you useful information to help make the decision.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/primary/health-and-development/does-your-child-need-a-mobile-phone>

When you need to feel calm, playing games that help you work through your feelings or give you a different focus can be really helpful.

Childline have created some online games that might be useful.

Have a look at the Childline website here;

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>



FIFTEEN APPS

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

<p>MEETME</p>  <p>MEETME IS A DATING SOCIAL MEDIA APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY. AS THE APP'S NAME SUGGESTS, USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MEET EACH OTHER IN PERSON.</p>	<p>GRINDR</p>  <p>GRINDR IS A DATING APP CEARED TOWARDS GAY, BI AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE. THE APP GIVES USERS OPTIONS TO CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS AND MEET UP BASED ON A SMART PHONE'S GPS LOCATION.</p>	<p>SKOUT</p>  <p>SKOUT IS A LOCATION-BASED DATING APP AND WEBSITE. WHILE USERS UNDER 17-YEARS-OLD ARE UNABLE TO SHARE PRIVATE PHOTOS, KIDS CAN EASILY CREATE AN ACCOUNT USING A DIFFERENT AGE.</p>
<p>WHATSAPP</p>  <p>WHATSAPP IS A POPULAR MESSAGING APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO SEND TEXTS, PHOTOS, MAKE CALLS AND VIDEO CHATS WORLDWIDE. WHATSAPP USES AN INTERNET CONNECTION ON SMART PHONES AND COMPUTERS.</p>	<p>TIKTOK</p>  <p>TIKTOK IS A NEW MOBILE DEVICE APP POPULAR WITH KIDS USED FOR CREATING AND SHARING SHORT VIDEOS. WITH VERY LIMITED PRIVACY CONTROLS, USERS ARE VULNERABLE TO BULLYING AND EXPLICIT CONTENT.</p>	<p>BADOO</p>  <p>BADOO IS A DATING AND SOCIAL NETWORKING APP WHERE USERS CAN CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS AND CONNECT BASED ON LOCATION. WHILE THE APP IS INTENDED FOR ADULTS ONLY, TEENS ARE KNOWN TO CREATE PROFILES.</p>
<p>BUMBLE</p>  <p>BUMBLE IS SIMILAR TO THE POPULAR DATING APP 'TINDER' HOWEVER, IT REQUIRES WOMEN TO MAKE THE FIRST CONTACT. KIDS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO USE BUMBLE TO CREATE FAKE ACCOUNTS AND FALSIFY THEIR AGE.</p>	<p>SNAPCHAT</p>  <p>SNAPCHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR APPS IN RECENT YEARS. WHILE THE APP PROMISES USERS CAN TAKE A PHOTO/VIDEO AND IT WILL DISAPPEAR, NEW FEATURES INCLUDING 'STORIES' ALLOW USERS TO VIEW CONTENT FOR UP TO 24</p>	<p>KIK</p>  <p>KIK ALLOWS ANYONE TO CONTACT AND DIRECT MESSAGE YOUR CHILD. KIDS CAN BYPASS TRADITIONAL TEXT MESSAGING FEATURES. KIK GIVES USERS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.</p>
<p>LIVE.ME</p>  <p>LIVE.ME IS A LIVE-STREAMING VIDEO APP THAT USES GEOLOCATION TO SHARE VIDEOS SO USERS CAN FIND OUT A BROADCASTER'S EXACT LOCATION. USERS CAN EARN 'COINS' AS A WAY TO 'PAY' MINORS FOR PHOTOS.</p>	<p>HOLLA</p>  <p>HOLLA IS A SELF-PROCLAIMED 'ADDICTING' VIDEO CHAT APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO MEET PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD IN JUST SECONDS. REVIEWERS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH RACIAL SLURS, EXPLICIT CONTENT AND MORE.</p>	<p>WHISPER</p>  <p>WHISPER IS AN ANONYMOUS SOCIAL NETWORK THAT PROMOTES SHARING SECRETS WITH STRANGERS. IT ALSO REVEALS A USER'S LOCATION SO PEOPLE CAN MEET UP.</p>
<p>ASK.FM</p>  <p>ASK.FM IS KNOWN FOR CYBER BULLYING. THE APP ENCOURAGES USERS TO ALLOW ANONYMOUS PEOPLE TO ASK THEM QUESTIONS.</p>	<p>CALCULATOR%</p>  <p>CALCULATOR% IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL SECRET APPS USED TO HIDE PHOTOS, VIDEOS, FILES AND BROWSER HISTORY.</p>	<p>HOT OR NOT</p>  <p>HOT OR NOT ENCOURAGES USERS TO RATE YOUR PROFILE. CHECK OUT PEOPLE IN THEIR AREA, AND CHAT WITH STRANGERS. THE GOAL OF THIS APP IS TO HOOK UP.</p>

The UK Safer Internet Centre has some useful resources for parents and carers in their Guide to Technology page which can be found here;

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

SOCIAL MEDIA—IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR IT?

Childnet have produced an informative article which aims to answer parents questions around social media, such as “When should I allow my child to join social media?”

The article, which can be found [here](#), also provides information on some alternative sites that have been created for younger children.

Social Media Age Restrictions

<p>Under 13 (with parental consent)</p> 	<p>13 +</p> 	<p>16+</p> 	<p>18+</p> 	<p>18 (13 with parental permission)</p> 
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