Safer online gaming

Online games can be lots of fun for your child while helping them learn and make friends.

But there can be risks, like seeing violent content, being bullied, or being contacted by strangers.

Thankfully, there are things you can do to help your child stay safe when they are playing games online.

Help your child

Use the settings on your child's device and on the game to block unsuitable content and stop them buying things in the game.

They should also make up a screen name to keep their real name private and use a password that is hard to guess.

Positive gaming experiences

Learn about the games your child likes by playing with them. It will also help you identify possible risks. You can also:

- talk to your kids about who they are gaming with and what games they play.
- gaming can be very rewarding, try to find other ways for them to have positive experiences.
- talk to your child if you are concerned about their gaming. You can also get help from a counsellor at Kids Helpline or Parentline.

Dealing with issues

Let your child know that they can tell you if anything worries them or makes them uncomfortable, like if someone says inappropriate things or asks them for private information like their address.

Let your child know that bullying, racism, or abuse is never okay, and that they can report it. Use The eSafety Guide to learn how to report online abuse. If the gaming platform doesn't help, contact eSafety to help find the right support.
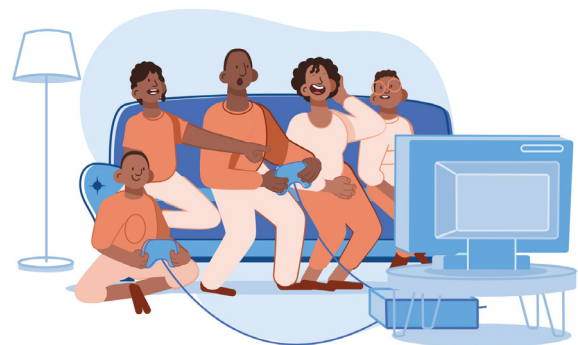
For more information about how to keep your family safe online, search for eSafety Parents on our website.