

AGE RESTRICTION
12+



'Fortnite - Battle Royale' is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite.' The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus', where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find hidden items, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game more challenging, there is an added twist called 'the storm' which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, bringing the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.



What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS
Newly featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins', 'gliders' and 'emotes', which change the characters' appearance, but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are attractive for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can take part in a series of challenges, receiving more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whichever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

HACKER ATTACKS
News site Forbes stated that it had seen "dozens" of online reports from people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers, who had gained access to user's accounts in the game and accrued hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED
Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with either their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, no proof of age is required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check whether your child has the game downloaded.

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE
Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies according to the game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and will want to continue playing until they achieve their desired result. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for them to stop playing halfway through as their position in the game could be affected.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE
Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and works towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE
There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'Vbucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in the game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'Vbucks'. The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money; if these offers seem too good to be true they usually are.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO
The game was released on mobile devices in April 2018, meaning it can be played without the need for a home games console. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is playing this game.

'FREE' TO PLAY
The game IS free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription, which does require a fee.

AGE RESTRICTIONS
PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only minor or trivial injury such as a slap," making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.

Top Tips for Parents

LIMIT GAME TIME
Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time a child is playing games on these devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to play the games for. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be difficult to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth imposing a limit on the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS
It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT
If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM TALKING TO STRANGERS
There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means your child wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. However, they would still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS
'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to restrict the amount your child spends and removed the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

USE A STRONG PASSWORD
It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.



A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

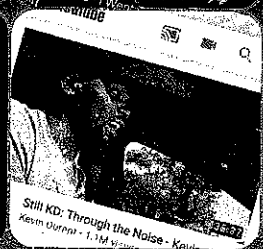
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/store/p/fortnite-deluxe-founders-pack> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-43626075>
<http://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com> <https://pegi.inp> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikknain/2018/03/12/fortnite-accounts-hacked-how-to-protect-yourself-and-what-to-do-if-youve-been-compromised/> <http://bbc.co.uk/1>



YouTube is a video sharing site/application that enables you to upload, view, rate, share and comment on a wide variety of videos. Consisting of a huge resource of information, advice and entertainment, YouTube now has 1.9 billion logged-in monthly users who watch a billion hours of video daily. Most of the content on Google-owned YouTube is uploaded by individuals, but organisations and media companies also offer some of their content via this platform.



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13+



What parents need to know about YouTube

SPENDING A PREMIUM

YouTube Premium (formerly YouTube Red) is a new paid streaming subscription service in the UK, offering a three-month free trial to tempt viewers into a £12-per-month plan. This includes the ability to download videos, stream videos with the app in the background, gives exclusive access to original content and a separate music streaming service and gaming app.

DANGEROUS 'CHALLENGE' & VIRAL VIDEOS

On YouTube, 'challenge videos' are shared quickly and can be very dangerous. One person may post a video of themselves doing something unusual like eating a hot chilli or jumping in a river and before you know it, the video goes viral and everyone wants to join in and share their videos. The speed in which challenge videos spread across the Internet makes it difficult to keep up with the latest ones.

SHARING VIDEOS

As well as watching videos, many children are keen to share their own videos online, emulating their YouTube heroes, such as Stampy or DanTDM. However, if they post something on YouTube, they may later regret it or feel embarrassed about what they have shared. There is also a risk that they will receive hurtful or negative comments regarding not only their content, but also their appearance. YouTube's comment section is infamous for being one of the most opinionated on the Internet.

IN-APP MESSAGING

When your child is logged into their Google account and browsing the YouTube website, they can share and talk about videos with their friends using the chat bubble. This can be found at the top right of the desktop site or through in-app messaging on their mobile or tablet. When they tap on the 'Friends' icon, they have a list of suggested people from their contacts - which can be any contact they've had on Google or somebody who has sent them an invite link.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE VIDEOS

As YouTube is the biggest video sharing website in the world, there is content available for all ages, meaning that some content will not be appropriate for your child. If you think that content is unsuitable, there is a flagging feature to submit it for review by YouTube staff, but you will need to be aware that just because video is not appropriate for a younger audience, it may not violate YouTube's policies. YouTube has mechanisms in place to automatically remove explicit and harmful content, yet offensive content may still slip through.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

TURN ON 'RESTRICTED' MODE

'Restricted Mode' is an optional setting you can use to help screen out potentially mature content you may prefer your child not to see. Restricted Mode works on the browser or device level, so must be turned on for each browser or device your child uses. To do this, follow these steps:

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| Desktop: | Mobile: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to the bottom of any YouTube page and switch 'Restricted Mode' to 'ON'. To make it more difficult for this to be turned off, you will be given the option to lock restricted mode onto your browser. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tap the three vertical dots at the top-right on the screen and press, 'Settings'. Click on 'Restricted mode filtering'. Press 'Restrict'. |

Please note that you can't 'lock' restricted mode on a phone in the same way that you can on a desktop. You will need to turn this on each time your child uses it.

CREATE A FAMILY GOOGLE ACCOUNT

By having a shared family Google account, checking the history will enable you to see exactly what your child is watching and sharing on YouTube. To see the history on a computer, on the right hand menu under the library section, click 'History'. On mobiles, the viewing history can be found by clicking on the 'Library' tab.

BLOCKING ACCOUNTS

When using YouTube, there may be instances where your child receives negative comments. If somebody's giving your child a difficult time, here's how to block them and prevent future comments and replies:

- Go to their channel/account by clicking on their name.
- Click on 'About'.
- Tap the dropdown box with an image of a flag on it.
- Press 'Block user'.
- Tap 'Submit'.

MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILD IS WATCHING/POSTING

The only way to truly know what your child may have been watching is to regularly monitor them. You can do this by checking their viewing history. YouTube videos can also be easily downloaded, so it is important that your child understands the associated dangers of content they are uploading and that it could harm their online reputation in the future. Show them how to set their videos to private or choose a small network of YouTube friends to share with. To get started, your child can use YouTube Studio which offers learning modules on creating a YouTube channel, however, you should encourage them not to use their real name.

NEW FEATURES

DIGITAL WELLBEING

YouTube has launched a tool called 'Time Watched' that allows you to see how long has been spent on the platform. Once you have discovered how much time has been spent on the app, there is the option to set a time limit. Once the limit is reached, a reminder will pop up on the screen. You can also disable sounds and vibrations to help resist the urge to check for notifications.

OPT FOR A FAMILY PREMIUM PLAN

A YouTube family Premium plan may be a cost-effective option if you have more than one child. For £17.99 a month, it allows you to share a YouTube paid membership with up to five other family members - aged 13 and older - living in the same household. As the account holder, or family manager, you must create a Google family account.

MANAGING IN-APP MESSAGES

If your child is accessing YouTube via your account, bear in mind that they may be contacted by Google contacts who are complete strangers to them. You can remove someone from the suggested contacts list by pressing and holding the person's name and tapping on the red 'x'.

POPULAR YOUTUBE GAMERS

There are hundreds of YouTube accounts which show other people playing and commenting on games. These are called 'Let's Play' videos. While YouTube can be a great resource for hints, tips and news for games, it is a good idea for parents to keep a close eye on what YouTube's are posting. Often, the games they are playing will contain strong language and violence. A few examples of popular YouTube gamers for you to have a look at are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stampy Yogscast Lewis & Simon PewDiePie EthanGamer Markiplier | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PopularMMOs Captainsparklez Jacksepticeye LtCorbis Dan TDM |
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SOURCES: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/6702517/youtube-porn-videos-roblox-sex-games-watch-online/>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-fgrbt296M>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z0y7r1rhc>, <https://www.widelymail.co.uk/news/article-5126833/terrifying-truth-child-watches-YouTube.html>, <https://www.todayparent.com/family/crazy-youtube-challenges-kids-are-doing/>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yek01b55Bg>, <https://focoblock.com/magazine/common-sense-media-youtube/>, <https://familytech.com/so-you-kid-wants-to-start-their-own-youtube-channel/>, <https://www.laptopmag.com/articles/block-someone-youtube>, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBjY/about/brand-resources/#logo:icons-colors>, <https://www.common-sense-media.org/blog/popular-youtube-gamers-kids-cant-get-enough-of-stampy/>