

Game On or Game Over:

What parents need to know about online gaming

An Introduction to Online Gaming

Online gaming is about playing video games online using devices such as computers, smartphones, and gaming consoles. Learn about the benefits and potential risks of online gaming and make informed decisions for your child.

Popular Types Of Online Games Include:

Massively Multiplayer Online Games (MMOs)

Games such as Minecraft allow thousands of players to play together in a virtual world.

Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games (MMORPGs)

Games such as Final Fantasy XIV allow players to assume a character and explore a virtual world.

First-Person Shooter (FPS) Games

Games such as Counter-Strike simulate combat from a first-person perspective.

Strategy Games

Games such as Starcraft require players to use strategic thinking and planning to achieve their objectives.

Sports Games

Games such as the FIFA video game series that simulate real-world sports.

Casual Games

Games such as Candy Crush are designed for quick and easy play, often on mobile devices.

Benefits of Online Gaming

Fosters Social Connection

Helps create common ground, allowing your child to make online friends easily, especially in MMORPGs



Develops Essential Skills

Develops their 3D perspective, reading, and problem-solving skills while encouraging collaboration



Boosts Self-Esteem

In-game rewards lead to a sense of achievement



Bond Through Play

Gaming with your child allows for more quality time together



Watch Out for These in Online Gaming

Game Dependency

Watch out for **signs of addiction** and know when you should step in and seek help.



Online Safety

Teach your child to report or block players and talk to you if they face improper content, cyberbullying or offensive language.



Gambling-like Elements

Games of chance within gameplay may give the impression that they are easy to win and may encourage them to gamble in the future.



Undue Influence

Some content shared by gamers or streamers (content creators) may not align with your values or standards. Foster critical thinking to guide your child to distinguish right from wrong.



6 Tips for Healthy Online Gaming

1 Review the Game

Check the age-appropriateness of the game via [IMDA's online game classification database](#) or read reviews on [CommonSenseMedia.org](#) and app stores.

2 Parental Controls

Switch on parental controls where possible, which can help you monitor and/or limit the time spent on gaming.

3 Time Management

Set limits for time spent on online games. Give a 10-minute heads-up, especially for game rounds that require completion to avoid losing progress.



4 Talk about Online Safety

Emphasise the importance of protecting personal information, recognising online threats, and being respectful during online interactions.



5 Limit Spending

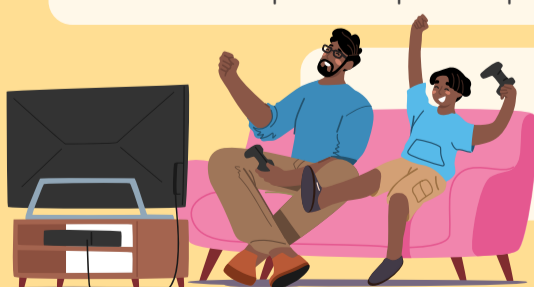
Discuss and agree with your child on their online game spending limit. Set clear guidelines and emphasise responsible spending.



A tip is to remove your credit card details after in-game purchases to avoid accidental future transactions.

6 Get Involved

Play online games together and place the gaming stations in shared family spaces rather than in private spaces such as study areas or bedrooms.



Online games are an engaging way for children and youth to spend time and interact with others, but your involvement is needed for a safe gaming experience for them. Set clear guidelines for your child's gaming habits, engage in open conversations, and stay informed to guide your child towards a positive online gaming experience.

