

Game On or Game Over: What You Need to Know About Online Gaming

What Parents Need to Know About Online Gaming:

- Understand the 6 most popular types of online games
- Recognise the benefits and risks of online gaming



What is 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:

Sandbox Games

Games such as Minecraft give players freedom to explore and engage with open environments.

Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games (MMORPGs)

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

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 offer simulations of real-world sports.

Casual Games

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



Your child may start playing digital games early. For a safe and enjoyable experience, set limits on their screen use. Disable the game's online community (where possible), and offer to play together as a family.

Benefits of Online Gaming

Fosters Social Connection

Creates common ground easily, enabling your child to make online friends, especially in MMORPGs



Develops Essential Skills

Improves 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 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 if the game is age-appropriate using [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, **being respectful online**, and reporting online threats like **cyberbullying** and **grooming**.

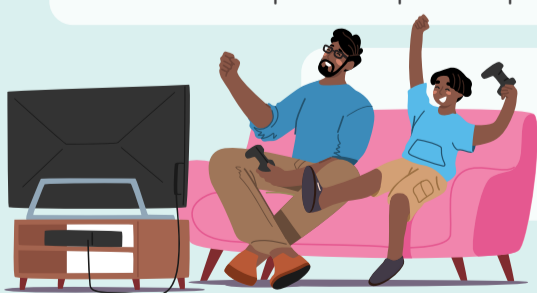


5 Limit Spending

Sign a **Family Tech Agreement** to agree on online game spending limits. 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 instead of private spaces such as study areas or bedrooms.

Online games are an engaging way for children to interact with others, but stay informed and involved in your child's gaming world. Set clear limits, have open conversations on their online experiences, and report inappropriate activity. Your guidance will help to create a fun and safe gaming experience for your child.



Visit www.digitalforlife.gov.sg for simple tips and tools to keep your child safe online.

