

GAMING SAFETY



Parents and trusted adults: As summer heats up, it's important to discuss online gaming safety with children and teens to avoid potential dangers and ensure a safe digital experience.



Monitor Online Interactions

Monitor interactions and who they are socializing with online. Teach them that online gaming can expose them to potential risks such as inappropriate content and online predators, so they must be cautious of online interactions.



Promote Safe Behavior

Tell them to stay vigilant and that they should never leave a game to chat on a different platform or meet someone they don't know in person. Remind them that if they only know someone through a game or app, they are still a stranger.



Review Maturity Ratings

Encourage age-appropriate games and ensure that they are suitable for your child's age and maturity level.



Foster Open Communication

Establish an environment where children and teens feel comfortable talking to you about their experiences online, including those that make them feel uncomfortable.



Set Boundaries

Set time and area limits for online gaming. Encourage breaks from the virtual world and promote time in the real world.



Research and Use Parental Controls

Do the research and get involved. Any game that has a communication feature where someone from the outside world can communicate with a child or teen is a vulnerability. Almost all gaming consoles and games have settings that can control the types of games they can access, who they interact with and how long they play. Get familiar with these features.



Use Age Settings Appropriately

Your child's correct age is an important data point because it helps ensure that certain features and content are restricted, such as chat features and access to violent content.