

### **Talking to your child about online safety**

Talk about what might be okay for children of different ages. Ask your child what sites or apps they like. Write a list, and look at them together.

Use NetAware to find out how to report or block sites or apps.

[net-aware.org.uk](http://net-aware.org.uk)

Talk about things they, or their friends, have seen that made them feel uncomfortable - tell them you'll help them to report anything upsetting they've seen, or to deal with online bullying.

### **Minecraft: a parent's guide**

Children have reported their concerns on Minecraft are: bullying, talking to strangers, hacking & downloading viruses. They may also come across inappropriate adult content.

Visit the NSPCC website for user friendly guides on Minecraft & online safety.

To keep children safe on Minecraft make sure you know where they are playing and they are using appropriate safety settings.

[nspcc.org.uk/minecraft-pdf.pdf](http://nspcc.org.uk/minecraft-pdf.pdf)

### **Gaming: 18+**

Do you know what games your children are playing?

Multiplayer adult games can leave your child open to seeing violent & sexual content, hearing inappropriate language, online abuse, bullying and grooming.

Use Common Sense Media for parent reviews on games & advice on age appropriate alternatives.

Alternative games, setting play modes, playing only in a family room rather than alone, restricting times (no night time access) are all ways to protect from the harmful affects on behaviour, emotional & mental health.

[comonsensemedia.org](http://comonsensemedia.org)

### **What you can do about sexting**

Creating or sharing explicit images of a child (under 18yrs) is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. Young people may think 'sexting' is harmless but it can leave them vulnerable to blackmail, bullying, unwanted attention & emotional distress.

For parental advice visit [nspcc.org.uk](http://nspcc.org.uk)

[nspcc.org.uk/sexting/](http://nspcc.org.uk/sexting/)

Have a conversation with your child, you could: explain the rules of having a mobile device, ask them what they feel is acceptable, make sure they're comfortable saying 'no', that their body is private, explain the importance of trust & consent.

You & your child can seek child-friendly advice on [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk)

[childline.org.uk/sexting/](http://childline.org.uk/sexting/)

Look at Childline's advice about relationships & online safety together.

### **Parental controls**

Parental controls can block, filter & manage the content different family members see. They can also help you to plan what time & how long your child can go online and prevent them downloading inappropriate apps.

Go to [ncpcc.org.uk](http://ncpcc.org.uk) for 'how to' guides to set parental controls on devices, games & apps.

[nspcc.org.uk/parental-controls/](http://nspcc.org.uk/parental-controls/)

### **Video chat & video sharing apps**

Video chat apps allow the user to have live face-to-face conversations; some sites (such as Omegle) encourage chat with strangers. Video conversations can be recorded & shared without user knowledge.

Top tips for parents on video chat & video sharing can be found on the NSPCC website.

Video sharing uses apps to allow the user to create & upload videos; lip-syncing, dancing, singing etc. these are commented on, liked or shared. These can be widely shared, receive negative comments & leave user open to exploitation.

[nspcc.org.uk/video-chat-video-sharing/](http://nspcc.org.uk/video-chat-video-sharing/)

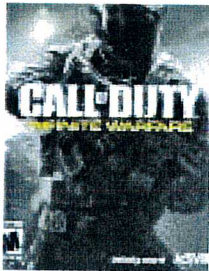
### **Free helpline**

To set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks, experts from the free O2 & NSPCC helpline can help.

0808 800 5002

# Gaming

The following are examples of 3 reviews written for parents on 18+ games by Common Sense Media.



Parents need to know that *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare* is a violent first-person shooter. Players use a variety of guns, knives, and explosives to kill other humans, resulting in death, gore, and bloodshed.....while online modes are unmoderated, which means players can be exposed to inappropriate content. In multiplayer, players can unlock banners that include images of drug use and sex.



*Battlefield 1* takes a gritty, realistic look at the violence that was part of World War I, with players using period authentic weapons and vehicles in combat to kill opponents in bloody ways. There's some profanity in the single-player dialogue, and the multiplayer component opens players up to offensive language from others during online play, which supports up to 64 players.



Parents need to know that *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* is a game that's completely inappropriate for children -- as are other games in the *GTA* series. The drug trade is glamorised and there's nonstop violence and sex, and it could teach them a few obscenities that even parents are unfamiliar with. The game is a direct recreation of the console hit, and what didn't work for kids then still doesn't today. Players can lead a life of crime, shoot police officers (as well as civilians and drug dealers), drink and drive, and have sex with prostitutes.

Visit [commonsensemedia.org](https://commonsensemedia.org) to find age-appropriate movies, books, apps, TV shows, video games, websites & music - a library of more than 28,000 reviews by age, entertainment type, learning rating & genre.

## What is the right age?



Facebook is a social network, which lets you create a page about yourself. You can add friends, share pictures and videos, write on people's pages, send instant messages and join online groups.

Facebook says

13

Parents say



Google+ is a space where you can share photos, videos, instant message or make video-calls. The site allows you to create 'circles' of contacts, so you can share different types of content with your different networks. It has a 'Hangout' section, where you can use your webcam to have group meetings, discussions or catch-ups.

Google+ says

16

Parents say



Instagram is a picture and video sharing app. Users can post content and use hashtags to share experiences, thoughts or memories with an online community. You can follow your friends, family, celebrities and even companies on Instagram.

Instagram says

13

Parents say



Ask.fm is a social networking site where you can ask other people questions. It's up to you whether you want to ask the question anonymously or not.

Ask.fm says

13

Parents say



WhatsApp is an instant messaging app, which lets you send messages, images and videos to friends. You can have one to one and group conversations.

WhatsApp says

16

Parents say



Meow Chat is a social network that allows you to have chats with strangers in a public chat room, with the option to then move into a private conversation, or to chat with other people based on their location.

Meow Chat says

13

Parents say



Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo or short video to your friends. The 'snap' appears on screen for a matter of seconds before disappearing. There's also a feature called Snapchat Story that lets you share lots of snaps in a sequence for up to 24 hours.

Snapchat says

13

Parents say



Kik is an instant messaging app. It lets you create your own username and message others without using your mobile number. You can share photos, organise events, share games, news and anything of interest to you from the internet.

Kik says

15

Parents say