INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
— EDUCATE. EMPOWER. PROTECT. —

Empowering Smart Online Choices

# A Parent and Educator Guide to MINECRAFT



## Explore. Build. Create. Learn.

Understand the benefits.
Recognize the risks.
Support safe and responsible use.

## What is Minecraft?

Minecraft is a popular sandbox game where players can explore, build, create, and survive in virtual worlds. It is available on multiple platforms and can be played in single-player or multiplayer modes. It is used by children, teens, and adults for gaming, creativity, learning, and social connection.

## Age Guidance

Minecraft does not require a specific minimum age, but it is generally recommended for ages 7 and up due to gameplay complexity and online interaction with others.
Parental guidance is important for younger players.

## Positive Aspects

Encourages creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

- Supports teamwork and communication.
- Can be used for educational purposes in schools.
- Offers safe, private worlds and family settings.
- Allows players to build, explore, and learn at their own pace.

## Potential Risks

Interaction with unknown players on multiplayer servers.

- Inappropriate language or content in public chat.
- Exposure to user-created content that may not be suitable for younger players.
- Scams, phishing, and requests for personal information.
- Griefing (when players destroy others' creations).
- Peer pressure and exposure to inappropriate behavior.

## Important to Know

- Multiplayer modes (public servers) increase the risk of contact with unknown players.
- Use privacy settings and play on trusted or private servers.
- Not all content is moderated, especially on third-party servers.
- Parental controls and supervised play can help make the experience safer.

## What Parents and Caregivers Can Do

### Have Open Conversations

Talk regularly about what your child builds, who they play with, and their online experiences.

### Set Clear Expectations

Discuss appropriate behavior, chat rules, and time limits.

### Use Parental Controls

Set privacy settings, limit multiplayer options, and choose trusted servers.

### Encourage Positive Play

Support creative building, learning opportunities, and playing with friends they know in real life.

### Stay Informed

Learn about new features, servers, and updates so you can have meaningful conversations.

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## Privacy Settings

### Control Who Can Play and Communicate

- Use Microsoft account privacy settings.
- Choose who can join your child's games and who can send friend requests.
- Restrict multiplayer to trusted friends or private servers.
- Adjust chat settings (e.g., disable chat or use "Friends Only").
- Review settings regularly, especially after game updates.

## Account Security

### Keeps Your Child's Account Safe

- Use a strong, unique password.
- Enable two-factor authentication through a Microsoft account.
- Do not share account credentials.
- Be cautious of links, offers, or websites that promise free skins, mods, or in-game currency.
- Keep recovery information up to date.
- Review account activity regularly.

## Good to Know

- Minecraft offers educational tools and resources, including Minecraft Education.
- Players can create private worlds to play only with people they know.
- Some servers have additional rules and may not be suitable for younger players.
- Safety tools and features may change over time, so check current settings regularly.

## Practical Tips for Using Minecraft Safely



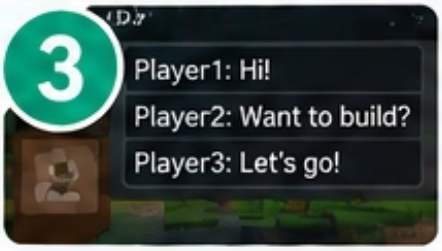

### Choose the Right Game Mode

Creative mode allows safe, open-ended play. Survival and multiplayer modes are best for older or more experienced players.




### Limit Multiplayer Access

Allow only trusted friends to join or use private servers. Avoid open public servers for younger players.




### Talk About In-Game Chat

Discuss appropriate language and remind your child not to share personal information in chat.




### Be Careful with Add-Ons and Servers

Only use trusted servers and official add-ons. Avoid downloading mods, skins, or content from unverified websites.




### Report and Block

Use built-in tools to report inappropriate behavior, block players, and protect your child from unwanted contact or disruptive activity.




### Manage Screen Time

Set reasonable time limits and encourage a balance with school, activities, sleep, and face-to-face relationships.

## Official Minecraft Resources

**Minecraft Safety Center**
Guides, tips, and resources for a safer Minecraft experience.
https://www.minecraft.net/safety

**Minecraft Education**
Classroom resources, lesson plans, and learning opportunities.
https://education.minecraft.net

**Microsoft Family Safety**
Tools to help manage screen time, app and game settings, and account privacy.
https://aka.ms/family-safety

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