

# Ways to Protect children online

You can find anything you want on the Internet. That is good and bad. It's important to set expectations with your children about what kind of content is appropriate. By setting expectations and boundaries you help ensure your child's growth is positive. While having these conversations are great, it isn't enough. Unwanted material is always trying to find a way to enter the screens in your home. However, there are preventive measures parents can take to reduce the chances of these unwanted materials from popping up in front of your children's eyes to see. Here's a list of things that can help.

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## Buying a router with parental controls on it

If your child needs access to your home WiFi to get onto the Internet having a WiFi router with filters and parental controls is an easy way to prevent unwanted web content from entering any device in the home. This is an easy way to protect all devices that do web browsing in the home. You can set up the router to block adult content, as well as block suspicious websites that can infect your devices with virus' or spam. Higher-end routers will even allow you to set filter levels specific to each device and be able to lock down devices during times you don't want your children to use the Internet, like the middle of the night while you are asleep. You can chat with experts from your local computer store to find the right one for your family.

<https://www.bestbuy.com/site/shop/wireless-routers-with-parental-controls>

<https://www.lifewire.com/best-parental-control-routers-4160776>

[https://www.bestreviews.guide/router-with-parental-controls?origin=google&google\\_params\[matctype\]=b&google\\_params\[network\]=g&google\\_params\[device\]=c&google\\_params\[creative\]=381543623185&google\\_params\[keyword\]=&google\\_params\[adposition\]=1t2&google\\_params\[adgroupid\]=76772379734&google\\_params\[campaignid\]=6490998898&bs=&google\\_params\[feeditemid\]=&google\\_params\[targetid\]=dsa-19959388920&google\\_params\[loc\\_interest\\_ms\]=&google\\_params\[loc\\_physical\\_ms\]=9029894&google\\_params\[devicemodel\]=&google\\_params\[target\]=&new\\_api=true&dest=0&sys\\_id=0|254&gclid=Cj0KCQiAyKrxBRDHARIsAKCzn8zB6SkMLc0NVIGNr8Zno](https://www.bestreviews.guide/router-with-parental-controls?origin=google&google_params[matctype]=b&google_params[network]=g&google_params[device]=c&google_params[creative]=381543623185&google_params[keyword]=&google_params[adposition]=1t2&google_params[adgroupid]=76772379734&google_params[campaignid]=6490998898&bs=&google_params[feeditemid]=&google_params[targetid]=dsa-19959388920&google_params[loc_interest_ms]=&google_params[loc_physical_ms]=9029894&google_params[devicemodel]=&google_params[target]=&new_api=true&dest=0&sys_id=0|254&gclid=Cj0KCQiAyKrxBRDHARIsAKCzn8zB6SkMLc0NVIGNr8Zno)

[CyF7y5w4XS5jOIJ\\_lrqV\\_aV41VGFOwLPsUaAqxEALw\\_wcB](https://www.bestreviews.guide/router-with-parental-controls?origin=google&google_params[matctype]=b&google_params[network]=g&google_params[device]=c&google_params[creative]=381543623185&google_params[keyword]=&google_params[adposition]=1t2&google_params[adgroupid]=76772379734&google_params[campaignid]=6490998898&bs=&google_params[feeditemid]=&google_params[targetid]=dsa-19959388920&google_params[loc_interest_ms]=&google_params[loc_physical_ms]=9029894&google_params[devicemodel]=&google_params[target]=&new_api=true&dest=0&sys_id=0|254&gclid=Cj0KCQiAyKrxBRDHARIsAKCzn8zB6SkMLc0NVIGNr8Zno)

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## Parental control software

Having a filter on your router is great but it won't stop unwanted content that comes through some apps. Netflix is an example. A filtered router won't stop your child from watching a TV-MA show on Netflix. If your child has their own tablet or phone, Android and iOS both provide parental controls that allow you to set up what kind of apps your child can use and even monitor their use so you can keep checks on it.

You can buy software for your children's computers to monitor and safeguard them when they use it.

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-parental-control-software>

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## Guided Access (iOS)

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304#set-restrictions>

If you sometimes just hand your phone to your child so you can do something in peace then iOS has a feature called Guided Access. You can set up restrictions that you can enable with a simple gesture before handing your phone over. Then depending on the restrictions, your child won't be able to stumble into something you don't want them to get into. One example is locked down the app so the child can't leave the app you started before handing your phone over.

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## Video Game Safety

“Be aware that most gaming devices can directly connect children to the Internet. Most gaming devices come with parental controls and family safety settings. These settings allow parents to restrict access to inappropriate games, restrict audio chat use, choose with whom their children play, and limit the amount of time their children play. **Enough Is Enough®?** recommends that

children should only play online games with parent-approved gamers that the child knows offline.” - Internet Safety 101 (<https://internetsafety101.org/videgameinfo>)

Below are tutorials for setting up parental controls on the 3 main video game consoles and a FYI on the game Roblox, that is currently very popular with grade-school kids.

- **Playstation** - <https://www.playstation.com/en-us/parental-controls/>
- **XBOX** - <https://support.xbox.com/en-US/help/xbox-360/security/xbox-live-parental-control>
  - Microsoft has an app that can set limits to Xbox, Androids devices, and Windows computers.  
<https://www.xbox.com/en-US/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming>
- **Nintendo Switch** - Nintendo has an app as well to control all accounts in one place. <https://www.nintendo.com/switch/parental-controls/>
- **Roblox** - <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>