

ROBLOX

A QUICK-GUIDE FOR PARENTS & TEENS

ConnectSafely

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➔ What is Roblox?



Roblox is an online entertainment platform for play that allows people to create games for the public using Roblox's digital tool known as Roblox Studio. There are literally millions of games on Roblox. Though parents can turn off its social features, Roblox may be your child's first experience with digital socializing, which gives you a hands-on opportunity to help your child develop good digital habits that will last a lifetime.

How can I help my child stay safe on Roblox? ⬅

The "rules" for using any game or service are pretty similar. Everyone should be respectful of themselves and others, be mindful of what they post, and understand how to use any privacy settings, security tools or blocking and reporting mechanisms. Roblox also provides parents with tools to restrict certain activities, like chat, within the platform.



➔ Should my child play Roblox with people he or she doesn't know?



There isn't a single answer for every child or family. Roblox does give you a lot of control over who can interact with your child and how. You can choose who can message them, who can chat with them in the app, who can chat with them in the game and so on. Click on **Privacy** under **Settings** to adjust these controls.

How much screen time is best for my child? ⬅

This is a harder question to answer than it may seem. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recently revised its screen time recommendations and, instead of arbitrary limits, now suggests, "For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media, and make sure media does not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity and other behaviors essential to health." In other words, use of Roblox or any other service should be balanced with the child's other activities and never interfere with school, family time or other forms of play, especially physical activities.



Stay nearby.

Whether your child plays Roblox on a computer, smartphone, tablet or gaming console, we recommend kids (especially younger ones) play with you or another trusted adult nearby when they're first starting out. You'll want to see what kind of games they're playing, how they're playing (sportsmanship matters online, too) and with whom they're interacting. Even once your child becomes accustomed to Roblox, it's still a good idea to check in once in awhile to make sure they're using it appropriately.

Play Roblox with your child.

See their favorite games and how they interact. Make an account for yourself and add your child as a friend so you can play games together. This will give you a better sense of what types of experiences your child will encounter on the platform and also how they interact with other friends and players inside specific games. And, besides, it might be fun for you, too.

Read and discuss Roblox's Community Rules.

Review Roblox's Community Rules with your child, especially their "guiding principles" which are written to be easy to understand. Also consider drawing up a family agreement that outlines your expectations for their online behavior. Make it a discussion (never a lecture) and remember to explain to your child that along with rights and privileges come responsibilities. Be clear about consequences for any violation of the agreement.

Parental controls.

All accounts have the option to enable an "Account PIN," which, when active, requires a 4-digit code to make changes to an account. These settings can be adjusted from within the Security tab of the Account Settings page, accessed by clicking on the gear icon in the upper-right corner of the site. Parents can use this feature for very young or new players, but, for most families, the goal should be to help your child make responsible decisions without relying on the extensive use of parental controls.

Passwords and other personal information.

Starting at an early age, talk with your kids about the importance of keeping passwords and other personal information private. Friends can become ex-friends, and use your child's account in mean or inappropriate ways. Scammers can also lure kids into giving private information in exchange for "free" Robux (the online currency that players can use to buy digital items on the Roblox platform). Help your child get into the habit of updating passwords regularly.

Blocking and reporting.

Roblox's human and digital moderators can't police every player and game, so it also relies on reports from its users when people break the rules. Players can use the Report Abuse links located throughout the app and in the Report tab of every game menu. Talk to your child about what to report (including bullying, inappropriate behavior, scams and other violations) and how to make a report. Or, ask your child to come to you if they experience a problem so you can help make that report.

For More Information & Help

ConnectSafely has an
in-depth parent's guide
to Roblox at
ConnectSafely.org/Roblox.