

Game Aware — Fortnite

- **Players can currently play Fortnite: Battle Royale on a PC, Mac, Xbox, and PlayStation or download it from the App Store.**
- **Use of the game has grown rapidly amongst children and young people since the launch of the mobile game in March 2018.**
- **An Android App is currently available from the developers (Epic Games, Inc) website ONLY.**
- **The game involves 100 players fighting each other in real time to be the final survivor.**



Why should parents care?

Fortnite: Battle Royale, has over 200m users worldwide, and has received a lot of media coverage recently due to growing popularity amongst children – and also emerging safety concerns.

- The game is free to play, making it popular amongst children
- Players can add friends and accept friend requests from others
- There is a chat feature in the game that allows users to contact each other using voice or text
- There is cartoon violence in the game. You can use a variety of weapons to kill other players, such as guns and axes.
- There are in-app purchases, which can become expensive.
- Users can be tricked into giving their username and password details to other users, with the promise of free 'V bucks'. This is often a scam to steal your V bucks and make more in-app purchases.

Here are the recommended age ratings for the game:

Epic Games: Fortnite Battle Royale says it does not direct the game to children under the age of 13 in the UK. The PEGI rating for this game is 12 years old. However, PEGI does not take chat features into con-

What can parents do?

Learn how to keep your kids safe on Fortnite

- If your child is below the recommended age, consider whether they should be playing the game at all
- Disable voice chat in the games audio settings menu
- If your child has an Epic Games account, tell them not to give their username and password to anyone
- Make sure there isn't a payment method linked to either your child's Epic Games account or to their console to avoid expensive in-app purchases
- Players can be reported to the [Player Support team](#) if you are concerned about activity or behaviour of other users
- Try to limit screen time on Fortnite. With games only lasting 20 minutes or so, it's easy for children to think 'just one more game' and spend hours a day playing. Maybe use the short games as a way to limit their time, for example, setting a limit of 3 games per day.

App Aware — Tik-Tok

- The Tik Tok app is a music video social media platform that replaced the Musical.ly app
- Existing Musical.ly users, content, and followers have been automatically transferred to the new TikTok app upon updating
- Users can watch clips of others or create clips, edit them, and add special effects
- The most popular videos feature lip-syncing or dancing



Why should parents care?

Tik Tok is rapidly becoming the most downloaded app. The Tik Tok app has more downloads than Snapchat, Spotify, and Gmail combined on the App Store (as of August 2018)

- There are only two privacy settings on the app
 - ⇒ **Private:** only the creator can watch their videos
 - ⇒ **Public:** anyone on the app can see their videos
 - ⇒ There is **no** friends only sharing option
 - ⇒ Users are **not** able to delete their accounts themselves but must do so by email request
- By default, all accounts are public unless the privacy settings are changed
- Apps like Tik Tok and Musical.ly can allow strangers to direct message your children

The reason for its popularity just might be how well it incorporates the functions of a host of other similar apps that have come before it. Part Instagram story, part Snapchat, and part Musical.ly. Reports on the inappropriate use of the popular iPhone app, Tik Tok, [have] said videos featuring self-harm and other life-risking activities, as well as sexually suggestive content, could easily be found on the platform.

What can parents do?

Learn how to keep your kids safe on the Tik Tok app

- Monitor and have a dialog about the apps your children are using
- Always be on the apps your children use. No monitoring app is better than having a regular digital safety conversation with your children
- Consider creating a Family Mobile Phone Contract before giving your children access to a mobile device
- If your child already has a phone, ensure that they ask for permission before downloading and using any new apps
- Have your child teach you about any new apps they want to download. Then do some research on your own to determine if the app is safe for your family to use
- Remind your children that their online activity (even under a fake username) can impact their reputation