



Minecraft

The website

<https://minecraft.net/en-us/>

Reviews and further detail for use at home

<http://parentinfo.org/article/staying-safe-on-minecraft>

Common Sense Media

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews/minecraft/user-reviews/adult>

NSPCC Advice

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/minecraft-a-parents-guide/>

Minecraft advice for parents

Parent resources

<http://minemum.com/minecraft-parent-problems>

Alternatives to the full website



Minecraft Pocket Edition

Mobile edition of the popular game

Minecraft is officially the most popular game online and now your kids will be able to tap into their creative minds and build structures on their tablets and smartphones. It has the same basic functionality as the desktop version with some limitations.

- Age: 10+
- Cost: £4.99
- Available on [Android](#) and [iOS](#)

Articles related to Minecraft

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-38284216>

<https://www.lifewire.com/minecraft-safety-tips-for-parents-of-mine-crafters-2487803>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXHavaRA-lo>



Minecraft is one of the world's most popular games, especially with primary school children.

Age Restrictions

Minecraft's terms and conditions specify that the game is for over 13s. This is because of US privacy legislation. In the UK, if children under the age of 13 play Minecraft, it is a violation of the site's terms and conditions **but it is not illegal**.

Is it appropriate for younger children?

There's nothing about the game itself that's inappropriate for children. Users explore landscapes and worlds and build their infrastructure from materials they find on the site.

As with any online activity, there are some safety concerns to keep in mind. If you have a young child who plays Minecraft, you might want to:

- Set the account up through your own email address and know their passwords.
- Discuss which settings you are going to apply prior to their joining the site – ie will you allow multiplayer?
- Speak to your child about unwanted contact and what to do if someone is being nasty or inappropriate to them in the game. Ask that they come to you if anything goes wrong, so you can make it stop.

Are there privacy settings?

Privacy settings are limited in Minecraft, but there are things you can do to control what your child sees and whom they interact with.

- **Single player / multiple player**

Users can either play on their own in single player, which is the safest mode because they can't use the chat function; or with others in multiplayer.

The multiplayer option enables users to play together in a single world. It's safest to create a private server where only known friends and contacts can join. Some servers have been set up to enable children and families to play together, with strict rules on language and behaviour. A simple online search will give you server options.

- **Chat feature**

On multiplayer, the chat function allows users to participate in discussions. You can open a chat window by pressing the 'T' button and then pressing 'Enter' to display the chat to other users. In the chat function users can also post website links.

Chat features on sites allow children to make friends with people who, in this case, have similar gaming interests. Online, there is no way of verifying who these people might be. It is important that children do not give away any personal information about themselves, or move their conversations into other online areas, especially private ones where conversations could become more personal.

Can I report directly to Minecraft? Currently Minecraft does not have a 'report' function so your child should be careful when joining a server. With some plugins you can report users who break the rules of the server to a moderator who can ban anyone being offensive or disruptive.

Adapted from <http://parentinfo.org/article/staying-safe-on-minecraft>