

Minecraft

Parent Guide

Everything you need to know about the online game

Age rating

7+

What is Minecraft?

Minecraft is one of the **world's most popular games**, particularly with younger children.

It has 120 million active users worldwide and is available to play on cross-platforms including **Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch, iOS, Android and Windows.**

To play Minecraft online and with other people, **children under 13 need parental permission.**

How does it work?

Minecraft is described as a 'sandbox' game, because it has no fixed goal and offers lots of possibilities. Users can **freely create their own experiences** using building blocks and resources discovered in the game.

There are three different game modes to explore: Adventure, Creative, and Survival. There's also different levels of difficulty.

While lots of servers are created to be **played just with friends and family**, there are also larger **family friendly servers and servers designed for children on the autism spectrum.**

What risks should I be aware of?

Minecraft has lots of different games within the game itself and these all have **different age**

ratings. Some **younger children might be suited to playing single player, creative modes.**

Servers are used to host **multiplayer games which are moderated by the game's creators.** Be aware that your child could be exposed to unwanted exchanges through text chat, particularly on larger servers.

Minecraft also **offers in-game purchases** via its marketplace.

What else should I know?

If your child is playing Minecraft online, **discuss whether they should only join servers with people they know – or start a server of their own.**

Help your child understand **blocking and reporting tools**, should they experience anything that makes them feel upset or worried.

Discuss the real **financial consequences of in-app purchases.** You can also make sure your card details aren't stored anyway, or that in-app purchases are disabled.

Finally, make sure to **discuss taking regular breaks.** As Minecraft has no end goal, it can compel your child to keep exploring and building with what the game offers.