

Gaming mods

Parent Guide

Everything you need to know about making modifications to games

What are they?

Gaming modifications - or “**mods**” - are **downloadable alterations to a game**. They are created when users change the code of the game to introduce **new settings, accessories or experiences**.

For example, there are mods that change your Minecraft world to a historical setting, or introduce special weapons for your Skyrim character.

Mods are available for **pretty much any game played on a PC** although not all consoles allow or approve of them. They are usually created by other gamers.

What are the risks?

All games have **age-ratings**, but a ‘**modded**’ **game** may no longer accurately reflect that game’s rating.

For example, one risk involved in gaming mods is the **addition of adult content into otherwise child-friendly games**. Some mods may sexualise characters’ behaviour, remove their clothing, or add violent elements to gameplay.

Downloading mods could also expose your device to **malware** – malicious software that can **affect your device’s security and privacy**. Make sure that if your child is downloading mods, they

come from **reputable sources**; for example, the gaming platform Steam.

Some have complained that mods can give some players an **unfair advantage** over others. Keep in mind that this could **cause conflict** between players.

What are the opportunities?

Creating mods offers children and young people an exciting opportunity to **learn how to code**.

Some gamers who started out modding their favourite games have gone on to **pursue careers in game development**.

What else should I know?

Mods can be an exciting way for your child to get involved in a **gaming community**. Most gamers interested in mods are **supportive** of those who share their passion and **willing to offer advice**.

But designing and playing with mods isn’t entirely without risk. If your child enjoys mods, talk to them about their favourites and make sure that they only **download them from trusted sources**. As always, if they have any issues, offer a supportive space for them to come to.