

Fortnite

Parent Guide

Everything you need to know about the online game

Age rating

12+

What is Fortnite?

Fortnite is a highly popular game. It is **free to download** and available on many platforms, **from Xbox to PC**.

There are three modes of play available: the most popular is **Battle Royale**, a **survival-style battle** between players. **Creative** allows players to **create buildings and explore** and **Save the World** allows up to four players to **battle against the computer**, rather than other players.

What are the risks?

Fortnite is rated **12+**, but has **no strict age verification**. Be aware that younger children could easily sign up.

There is a **multiplayer** option which allows for **unmoderated in-game chat**. This means your child could be exposed to **upsetting comments or bad language** from other players. Multiplayer is available in each different game mode.

The game uses **loot boxes**. Fortnite's in-game currency, **V-bucks**, allows players to buy virtual packs **offering aesthetic additions – 'skins' – to their character**. Most players **buy V-bucks with real money**, but you can also earn them through **gameplay**. Players can also buy a **3-month long season pass – 'Battle Pass' – for £7.99** which gives you access to **extra rewards and challenges**.

Loot boxes can **promote gambling behaviours** in children, so make sure you **don't have card details saved** on the device your child is using and discuss the way they can **pressurise** players into spending more money.

What safety settings are there?

Fortnite's **parental controls** allow you to **manage your gaming experience**.

If your child has an issue with another player, they can **report and block them** by going to the **Fortnite menu and selecting 'reporting/feedback'**. Once here, you will be able to name the player you want to report and submit the report.

You can add settings to **filter out friend requests from other players and mature language**. You can also **turn voice and text chat off**; particularly useful if another player is being aggressive or inappropriate.

What else should I do?

Fortnite is a **fun and engaging** game. The multiplayer mode has added appeal for children who want to play with their friends.

The short nature (30 minutes) of each battle can push children to keep playing. Keep in mind that battles are **fast-paced and immersive**. Try to **set boundaries** with your child to help them avoid feeling cut off mid-battle.

Make sure that you and your child **fully understand the safety and privacy settings** before they start playing. Be aware that **the chat function is unmoderated** and may not be suitable for younger children.

As always, **encourage your child to come to you** if they have any problems whilst playing.