

Online Safety Newsletter: Oct 2018

ROBLOX

Roblox allows users to create their own virtual worlds and play with other people on a range of

platforms, including mobile phones and Xboxes. By creating things, players can earn "Robux" to buy accessories, additional skills or more tools and materials to build with.

What do I need to be aware of?

There is a chat facility within Roblox. **For users aged 12 and under**, Roblox automatically enforces more restricted settings so they can only directly message other friends (that they've accepted) **but does your child know all their 'friends' on Roblox? Are they signed up with their right age?**

Players age 12 and younger have their posts and chats filtered both for inappropriate content and behavior and to prevent personal information from being posted. Players age 13 and older have the ability to say more words and phrases, but inappropriate chat and sharing personal information should be restricted. To adjust the chat and interaction settings of your child's account:

- Click on the gear icon in the upper right corner and click **Settings**.
- On the right hand side of the Settings page click the **Privacy** option.

Users and their parents may also enable an Account PIN which requires a 4-digit code to make changes to the account.

Can I see what my child is doing on Roblox?

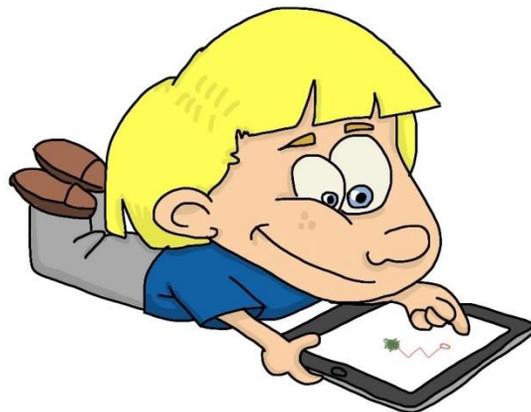
Roblox has several ways to see the history for certain activities. When logged in, you can view the following histories:

- Private message history
- Friends and Followers
- Virtual item purchase and trade history
- Chat history with other players

For more information, Roblox have created this parent's guide:

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

(Source: <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering>)



Apple device?

New Screen Time features available with iOS 12

Apple have released a software update which includes a new feature called Screen Time (under settings) which contains daily activity reports, total time spent in each app used, usage across categories of apps and how often you use your device. There is also an 'App Limits' feature so you can set a specific amount of time to be in a particular app, when this time has been reached a notification will display.

Why is this useful for you?

Through Family Sharing, you can view your child's Activity Report from your own device and see how much time your child is spending on their device and set App Limits for them. You can also block usage at certain times e.g. bedtime. When set, notifications will not be displayed. What's really useful is that parents can choose specific apps like Phone or Books that will always be available.

More information available here: <https://www.apple.com/uk/newsroom/2018/06/ios-12-introduces-new-features-to-reduce-interruptions-and-manage-screen-time/>

Games currently being played...

PUBG (PC/Xbox)

(PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds)

This game has been rated 16+ by PEGI: *This game has been rated PEGI 16 due to frequent moderate violence towards human characters and encouragement of drug use. Not suitable for persons below 16 years of age.*

It's an online multiplayer game, in which a group of students are forced to fight to the death by the government. 100 players are dropped on to the island and they quickly need to search for items, such as backpacks, body armour and guns and then try to kill each other until they are the only remaining player.

Parents need to be aware that this can be an addictive game and due to the live chat, inappropriate or offensive language may be heard.

National Online Safety have produced this brilliant guide for Parents which includes how to report users:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/pubg-parents-guide/>

Apps to learn about numbers:



Monkey Math
School Sunshine
£1.99 (iOS)
£1.79 (Google)



Operation Math
Code Squad
£2.99 (iOS)
£2.69 (Google)



Math Vs Zombies
Free (iOS)
Free (Google)



Sumdog
Free (iOS)
Free (Google)

Time to go online together with Think you know



(Source: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/band-runner/>)

Why not visit the Thinkuknow 8-10's website (for 8 – 10 year olds) with your child and play their game, Band Runner together and explore the online safety advice pages together? The game is available here:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/

Think you know have produced some useful conversation starters and advice to help you talk to your child about staying safe online:

- Ask your child about the games, sites and apps they like to use. What do they like about them? Is there anything they don't like?
- Play Band Runner together. You could take it in turns on one device or play at the same time on two. After playing, ask your child what they remember about Alfie's online safety dilemmas.
 - If your child enjoys playing games where they interact with people they don't know, make sure they understand that it is not safe to share personal information like their name, school, and phone number with people they meet in the game. Explain that if anyone says anything that worries or upsets them, they should tell you or another trusted adult straight away.
 - Help your child manage the privacy settings on their apps to ensure that they are only sharing things with friends they know and trust in real life. If your child likes sharing photos or videos with people they know in real life discuss safer ways they could do this e.g. sending via email, messaging service or private link.
- Find out how to block and report someone in each game, site and app they use and discuss with your child
- Tell your child that they can come to you if something goes wrong online, that they won't be in trouble and you will be able to help.

