

Newsletter Topics: Livestreaming? | Youtube: A Guide for Parents

What is livestreaming?

Livestreaming is when someone broadcasts video in real time over the internet. Anyone with an internet-connected device can tune in to watch.

What are the risks?

Watching livestreams comes with certain dangers you should know about. The biggest concern is that your child might encounter inappropriate material, since livestreams can feature themes or content unsuitable for their age. Because the content is broadcast in real time, it's very hard to monitor or filter.

How can I help my child?

- Every online platform has an age rating, so make sure your child only uses ones suited to their age. TikTok, for instance, is rated for ages 13 and up.
- Check that suitable parental controls and privacy settings are switched on for all platforms your child uses.
- Show interest in your child's online activity, and ask them regularly to walk you through what they're looking at.
- Make sure your child understands how to report or block content on the apps they use, and that they know to speak to a trusted adult if anything online worries them.

Further information

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/livestreaming-parents/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>



Youtube: A Guide for Parents

YouTube is available on phones, tablets, Smart TVs, and more. It is intended for users aged 13+, but younger children can use it with parental consent.

Age-appropriate options include:

- **YouTube Kids** – A separate app with content filtered by age: Preschool (4 and under), Younger (5–8), or Older (9–12).
- **Supervised accounts** – A parent-managed version with three content settings:
 - **Explore** – generally for ages 9+
 - **Explore more** – generally for ages 13+
 - **Most of YouTube** – nearly all content except 18+ videos

For more info:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

Risks to be aware of:

YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- Inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time (autoplay can make this worse)
- Unwanted contact or cyberbullying (especially via comments)
- Algorithms that push narrow or negative content
- Ads not suitable for your child's age

What you can do:

- Set up parental controls
- Teach your child how to report and block
- Watch together or supervise use

Further info:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

