PARENT/CARER FACTSHEET – MARCH 2025

Child safety on YouTube Kids

What's the problem?

YouTube Kids automatically filters out most inappropriate content for children aged 12 and under. But no automated system is perfect, so it may not catch everything.

Videos that look like they're child-friendly could include violent or disturbing content. They might be suggested videos, or appear in search results.

5 steps to take to help keep your child safe

YouTube Kids takes you through parental controls when you set it up. Make sure you set yourself up as a parent and then add child accounts.

You can set it up on the website (https://www.youtubekids.com/) or download the app. Once you're set up, follow the steps below.

1. Set parental controls to help protect your child from seeing inappropriate content

- You can set content settings so your child only sees videos intended for certain ages (4 and under, 5 to 7, and 8 to 12), or so they only see videos you approve. You choose this during the set-up process, or can change this after set-up
- You can also turn off search so your child can only see recommended videos under each category in the home screen, and can't search for videos

To do either of these things, go to the following page and select the relevant tab for your device, then scroll down to 'Change your child's content level settings' or 'Turn off search':

https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6172308

2. Block videos or channels that you don't want your child to watch

You can block specific channels and videos from both your linked parent account and the YouTube Kids app.

You can find instructions here: https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/7178746

3. Report inappropriate content

YouTube Kids filters and safeguards against inappropriate content, but can't guarantee complete safety. Make sure your child knows how to report content that makes them uncomfortable or that upsets them.

You can find instructions here: https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6130562

4. Set a timer to limit time on the app

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You can set a screen time limit on YouTube Kids to encourage healthy habits.

See this page to find out how: https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6130558

5. Turn off autoplay

Autoplay allows related content to play after the current video has finished.

To find out how to block it, go to the following page and select the relevant tab for your device, then scroll down to 'Turn off autoplay': https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6172308

Sources and further reading

- YouTube Kids: parent resources
  https://www.youtube.com/kids/parent-resources/
- YouTube Kids shows videos promoting drug culture and firearms to toddlers
  https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/may/05/youtube-kids-shows-videos-promoting-drug-culture-firearms-toddlers

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