Gaming Safety Tips

Parental involvement is critical when it comes to helping children game more safely. Take an active interest in the games that your child plays and wants to buy. You can research games' ratings and content on www.esrb.org.This website is maintained by the Entertainment Software Rating Board which rates thousands of games each year.

Know which safety features are available on the gaming equipment that your child uses-a headset may have voice-masking features, for example.

Keep gaming consoles in an easy-to-supervise location and be aware of other places where your child may be accessing games.

Tell your child never to give out personal information while gaming or agree to meet anyone outside of the game.

Set rules about how long your child may play, what types of games are appropriate, and who else may participate.

Have your child check with you before using a credit or debit card online.

Check to see if the games your child plays have reporting features or moderators.

Start a discussion with your child

— Can we play some of your favorite games together?
— How do you respond if someone bothers you while you are gaming?
— How much do you let people know about you while gaming?
— What kinds of people do you game with?
— Do you feel safe while you are gaming online? Why or why not?