



Playing Online Games

Navigating the world of digital entertainment, together.

What do I need to know about online games?

How can my child access online games?

- Online games are everywhere, and complex games can be played on-the-go via smartphones.

If my child enjoys online gaming, why not?

- While gaming is fun and can bring about positive outcomes (e.g., feeling good about their abilities and effort), **excessive gaming can lead to negative impacts**, such as excessive in-app purchases, attracting unwanted attention, increasing anxiety and the risk of cyber bullying.

Does the game have age restrictions?

- To check if a game is age-appropriate, video game ratings can be found on the IMDA website.
- Age ratings on games can be found on Google and Apple app stores. For example, Roblox, a popular mobile game, is age-rated 12+.

#10 Resources on video game ratings are available at the end of the presentation.

<https://imdaonline.imda.gov.sg/Classification/Search/VideoGames/Default.aspx>

What can I do if I am concerned about the gaming habits of my child?

go.gov.sg/pfw-child-gaming-world

#11 Resources on [conversation tips on gaming](#) are available at the end of the presentation.

Discuss your concerns with your child through open conversations

- Discuss your concerns with your child and develop a **realistic timetable** to balance their gaming with other screen-free activities.
- **Review the plan regularly** with your child.

Tips	Conversation Starters
Ask about a game that your child seems to be playing frequently.	“What is this game about?” “Why do you find this game fun? Can you share more with me?”
Involve your child in setting rules and expectations for when they can play games, for how long, and the consequence of not following the agreed-upon rules.	“What are some suggestions on rules of gaming that you may have?” “Let’s discuss what would happen if anyone breaks the rules.”
Prompt your child to think about the risks of gaming	“Do you chat with strangers you’ve just met while playing online games? What are some possible dangers that can come?” “Can you help me understand why you spent \$300 on your game?”

What can I do if I am concerned about the gaming habits of my child?

Seek help from school and community

- If there is **no improvement** and their gaming behaviour **continues to be a cause of concern**, you may want to seek help from the school or other community partners such as **Help123 at 1800 6123 123**.

Seek professional help

- If there is **marked deterioration** and **significant impairment to the child's life**, consider seeking professional help.
- The professionals can assess the severity of the problem and recommend appropriate interventions.
 - You can approach the School Counsellor for support in this area.
 - You may call **National Addiction Management Service All Addictions helpline** at 6-RECOVER (**67326837**).

go.gov.sg/gaming-conversation

#11 Resources on entering your child's gaming world are available at the end of the presentation.