



Beechcroft Infants School

Online Safety Newsletter

October 2024



Learn Through Play with Sesame Street

The Sesame Street website has a whole host of resources, activities, and games from supporting with learning ABCs to discussing tough topics such as grief.

<https://sesameworkshop.org/>



This term we are focussing on how you can support your child to stay safe when using YouTube.

What is YouTube?

YouTube is a user-generated video sharing platform owned by Google. It allows people to discover, watch and share videos. You can create your own channel and subscribe to the channels of other people or organisations. Viewers can rate, comment on and share videos or add them to playlists. Many people use YouTube for video blogging or vlogging. YouTube can also be used to live stream, which is video that is simultaneously broadcast and recorded in real time. YouTube Shorts are short form vertical videos, typically recorded on mobile phones, that last between 15 to 60 seconds.

YouTube has a recommended minimum age of 13+

How can you keep your child safe on YouTube?

Watch YouTube With Your Children



Watching YouTube with your children is the best way to ensure that they're avoiding unsafe content. If you're a busy parent, asking your child to keep the volume loud enough so that you can hear what they're watching is a decent compromise. You can also use the *Watch It Again* tool in YouTube Kids (or the *History* in regular YouTube) to see what your children have been watching — but be aware, tech-savvy children can remove videos from these tools.

Staying safe online with Google Families

Google have a one stop resource to help you and your family stay safe online. It includes how to set up parental controls and important steps on how to keep your children safe online. You can find out more here:
<https://families.google>



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to access the school website:



Use YouTube Kids



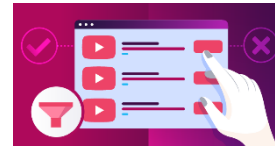
[YouTube Kids is not perfect](#), but it can keep younger children safe to a certain extent, and it can be downloaded as an app or used online. To make a profile, you'll need to sign in with your YouTube/Google account, or you can just use the YouTube Kids website to log in without a profile. Making a profile for your children will make it a lot easier to block certain channels, make curated playlists, and just generally track your child's YouTube activity.

Disable Search



Turning off the Search feature in YouTube Kids means your child can only see moderator-approved content. While this reduces exposure to inappropriate material, it also limits the content they can discover and their ability to search for specific videos.

Curate Playlists



This can be an effective way to ensure your children aren't accessing inappropriate content, even if it's a time-consuming task. However, there's no way to guarantee that your children aren't navigating away from the playlists that you make. Another fun way to do this is to make playlists with your children. That way they have a sense of ownership, and you can also be sure that there are videos in your playlists that your children really want to watch.

Block Offensive Channels & Videos



If you tap the 3 dots in the top right corner of a video, you can block it, or even block whole channels. YouTube will also avoid recommending similar videos and channels in the future. In addition, teaching your children how to flag and report videos on YouTube will empower them to protect their own online experience.

Limit App Permissions



Regularly assess app permissions and block any unnecessary ones. Limit any permissions that aren't critical for the app's operation, such as gaming apps accessing your child's photos or messages.

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
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