What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

**FORTNITE**

**CHAPTER 4**

**AGE RESTRICTION**

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**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**ALWAYS ONLINE**

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using data), so you may find that dedicated and young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about time away from the game — such as days out and holidays — than you might have expected.

**IN-GAME COSTS**

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases — cosmetic skins, rare weapons, and so on — which don't really impact gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-bucks, which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

**POP CULTURE REFERENCES**

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its organizing popular characters with popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like The Walking Dead to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from Alien or who Geralt of the Witcher is, a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

**MATCH GAMING TIMES**

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day, so that everyone is enjoying the game, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialize with their friends online.

**SET SPENDING LIMITS**

Fortnite's rotating store is a net-to-nettle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on things bought after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulsive purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use — or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

**USE UPDATES AS REWARDS**

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free — but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for completing set challenges. The passes cost around £6 (and are available as a set of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like doing their room.

**BE WARY OF SCAMS**

The immense popularity of Fortnite with trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to trick them into giving away passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's leading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game, so make sure your child knows this.

**ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER**

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. There's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit — but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

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**Advice for Parents & Carers**

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**Meet Our Expert**

Lloyd Colefa, B.E. in Digital and Video Games and Expert in Online Gaming andspent time with the ESRB and has been using gaming media for around a decade. A long-time gamer, he has spent a fair amount of time playing games with his kids and enjoys sharing his insights and tips for safe and enjoyable gaming.

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