

YouTube

Parent Guide

All about the video streaming service

Age Rating: 13+



What is it?

YouTube is the most popular video sharing service in the world, with **22 billion monthly visits**. It is **free to use** and available via web browser or as an app.

Alongside video uploads, users can **live-stream**, broadcasting directly to their audience.

To make an account and upload content, **users must be 18+ (or 13+ with parental consent)**. You don't need an account **to watch content** on the site.

YouTube Kids is designed specifically for **younger children** aged **four to 13** and only shows family-friendly content.

What are the risks?

Your child could come across **inappropriate or upsetting content**. Content with adult themes is age-restricted and to watch you must sign-in to an 18+ account, but some videos slip through these guidelines.

Comments on videos can also be **distressing or hurtful**. If your child is commenting on a video, there is the possibility that they could get involved in **unpleasant comment exchanges**.

Some videos created by **YouTubers or vloggers** (YouTube's influencers) include sponsored or paid-for content, which isn't always clear. This can put **pressure** on younger audiences to **spend money**.

Are there any safety settings?

Creating a 'Supervised Account' offers **three levels of access to the main site**, allowing your child to explore a wider range of appropriate content.

You can turn on **restricted mode** to filter out videos that could contain inappropriate content from search results. To do this, go to the **'account' icon** and select **'on' for restricted mode**.

YouTube has a **sidebar with recommended videos**. Click 'not interested' on a recommended video to filter out similar content in the future. **Turn off autoplay** to stop recommended videos automatically playing.

You can report an inappropriate video or comment by clicking the three dots below and selecting 'report'. To report a channel, go to their account, **select the flag icon** and then **select 'report user'**.

What else should I know?

YouTube is an **informative and entertaining** site, with videos on any topic imaginable, but it is intended for users aged 13+. For younger users, YouTube Kids offers a more age-appropriate experience – although some may find it too childish.

If your child is using the adult version of the site, make sure you are aware of the content filters and restrictions available and that they **fully understand the reporting functions**.

As always, offer them a **safe space to come to** if they encounter anything upsetting or uncomfortable.