

Fortnite Parent Information Leaflet

Taken from: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/fortnite-battle-royale-online-safety-guide>

Fortnite: Battle Royale

Launched in 2017, Fortnite: Battle Royale is a free online survival game for PC, Xbox, Playstation and iOS devices.

Age: You need to be at least **13** years old to play Fortnite. It also has a PEGI rating of **12+**.

Some think that as the game contains guns, it should not be played by children. Whilst there is no blood or gore in the game, it is **important** to talk to children in your care about this level of violence; ask them if they find it upsetting. You know the children in your care the best and it is up to you to decide whether it is suitable for them to play.

Fortnite: Battle Royale features up to 100 players, who can be playing alone or can join the game in small squads. The aim of the game is to **stay alive**; striving to be the last player remaining after the others have been killed.

The nature of the game (staying alive) is proving to be very addictive to those who play. Therefore, if you allow children in your care to play the game, it is important to enforce screen time limits to ensure children don't spend too much time playing it. See the '**Screen Time**' section in '**Need to Know**' for more information.

The game features 'cross-platform play' between either the PC computer, gaming console or on a mobile device. This means that children can play on an Xbox against someone who playing on a mobile device.

Whilst there is no global **text-chat** function like in Minecraft or Clash of Clans, there is a **voice chat** function utilised through the use of a headset. This function can be muted and does not change how the user plays the game.

In-app Purchases

Whilst the game is **free** to play, Fortnite generates a lot of income via in-app purchases. Users can purchase the in-game currency, V-Bucks (a.k.a Vinderbucks) to buy items from the shop. The item shop changes every day, bringing a sense of urgency over the need to purchase rarer items immediately.

Game Privacy

- **Public** - Anyone can join your game.
- **Friends Only** - Only friends can join (make sure to deselect the option to allow friends of friends).
- **Private** - Only your party leader can send out invites.

Top Tips

- **Don't be afraid** to make your own account and play Fortnite to find out for yourself how it works. Make yourself a party master and add the children in your care to a private group. This means any friend requests will need to be approved by you.
- Show children in your care how to mute voice chat so they aren't contacted by players they don't know.
- Advise children to never give out any personal information, e.g their phone number, real name, address, school and or any club names they are members of. See the "**Personal Information**" section in "**Tips and Tricks**" for more information.
- Play along with children to find out how the game works.
- The game includes DLC (downloadable content), make sure children in your care know not to purchase anything in the app without your consent.

Game Modes

- **Solo** - Solo play is when you enter the game by yourself. Your goal is to remain the last player alive.
- **Duo** - Duo mode is where a team consists of two people. It is similar to squad mode except for the number of players. You can team up with your offline friends, or you can choose an option called "Squad Fill" to have the server automatically assign you someone as your teammate.
- **Squad** - Squad mode consists of teams of up to four people. This works the same way as duo mode where you can be teammates with your friends or be assigned to a squad.
- **Creative** - Creative mode lets you play without any pressure and at your own pace. You can design your own personal Fortnite island. It removes the time-sensitive nature and has lifted the veil on those out-of-reach rewards that fuel the addictive and expensive aspects of the game.

Fortnite Jargon Buster

- **Squad** - Children can join other friends and play together against the rest of the players.
- **Schematics** - Schematics are plans found hidden throughout the world of Fortnite Battle Royale. They are recipes allowing other players to craft their own weapons and traps from materials.
- **V-Bucks** - Battle Royale's internal currency. V-Bucks can be used to purchase things such as weapons, weapon skins and new clothing. V-Bucks can also be built up within the game without having to add a credit card, contributing to the addictive nature of the game.
- **Looting** - "Looting" can be collecting anything from ammunition, weapons, traps or resources in the game. These are also referred to as "Loot Boxes".
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- **The Storm** - You need to be aware of "The Storm" as they bring Monsters, meaning play will be harder. Otherwise known as "The Wall", the Storm is a large, blue, transparent wall that covers the entire map. Anyone caught in the storm can lose health.
- **Battle Pass** - The Battle Pass is a method Battle Royale players can use to gain access to exclusive in-game rewards. You can pay for a Battle Pass with V-Bucks.
- **Challenges** - All players in Battle Royale will receive "Daily Challenges", each night at midnight you are set a maximum of three challenges.
- **Item Shop** - The Item Shop is Battle Royale's online shop. This is where you can purchase outfits, weapons and emotes.
- **Locker** - Your locker lets you store the stuff you have bought from the Item Shop via your battle pass.
- **Emote** - An emote is a way to animate your character to show your emotion. E.g you can make your character "dab", or blow kisses.

- **Skins** - These are outfits that change the cosmetic appearance of your character/avatar. There are rarer skins that only appear at specific times of the year such as Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter.
- **Gliders** - Gliders are parachutes that help you land when you are jumping off the bus at the start of the game. Throughout the game, players can use them to jump between buildings.
- **Harvesting Tools** - Harvesting tools, such as the default pickaxe, are tools that players can use to mine and damage materials in the world of Fortnite. You can also use the tool as a weapon to destroy other players in the game.
- **Seasons** - Each new season brings new skins, new weapons & many more items you can purchase. It's a way to shake things up and bring new challenges to players so they stay interested.