

How to talk to children about racism

Children and young people may have seen images and stories in the news about race and racism. Some children might not fully understand the stories and they may have questions. It is important to encourage positive and open conversations about racism with children:

- Have conversations about this often, not just when it is in the news.
- Keep the conversation going and let children know it OK to ask questions.
- Encourage children to understand the lived experience of ethnic minority groups better.

The website below offers more information about speaking with children about the sensitive topics of racism, diversity, how racism affects children and individuals and having age appropriate conversations.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/>

Online Safety for children in primary schools

We are seeing that more and more of our children have phones, tablets, laptops, kindles etc. This means they have access to many different websites. Sometimes even websites that may look appropriate can be harmful.

*YouTube Kids is **mostly safe**, but there is a small chance children could see nudity, violence, or just weird stuff, as well as adverts for things like junk food. One study found that 27% of videos watched by kids 8 and under are intended for older target audiences, with violence being the most likely negative content type.*

Please continue to monitor your children when they are online to ensure that they stay safe and feel confident in telling or another trusted adult about something they see that makes them uncomfortable or if someone has tried to contact them.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

SETTING UP

1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.

3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

Advice for Parents & Carers

REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction - which can potentially lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lower chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to tell you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also best to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are deemed suitable for their age group.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may require spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

Meet Our Expert

Olivia Cowden (aka Lunawell) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She's the owner of Squid Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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