



Games Console Advice For Parents

Fortnite, Minecraft, Xbox, RDR 2, PS4, VR, COD, Black Ops 4, Switch

This isn't a nonsense language made up by us in the office-they are all terms related to games consoles and will no doubt form part of children's (and adults!) Christmas lists this year.

If you are buying a child a games console for Christmas make sure that you are aware of potential risks around them and promote safe gaming. Not clued up on the latest games consoles?

Have a look at our top questions to ask when buying a games console for children:

- How do I know if games have online multiplayer?
- Does this gaming device have internet access? What does this allow you to do online?
- Is it possible to monitor internet use and manage what content my child can access?
- How can this gaming console/game be used to communicate with people online, and is it through voice chat or direct messages?
- Can my child run up a bill on this gaming device? Is there a way to restrict or monitor spending?
- Do I need a valid credit/debit card to set up anything on the device?
- How do I protect my child's identity/my identity when using a console?
- What personal information (eg date of birth, real name) can be viewed on the console?
- What security measures can I put in place to protect personal information?
- Can I put in place different parental settings for different family members?

If you require advice on safe gaming for children you can visit internetmatters.org and saferinternet.org.uk for in depth guides to safe gaming.