

Video Streaming

What is Video Streaming?

Videos that are played over the internet in 'real-time' and do not require downloading to a device. Videos are 'streamed' through a video player that is either embedded into a browser or downloaded as a piece of software. Video streaming is one of the most popular forms of media sharing.

Key Features of Video Streaming to be aware of

- ★ Video streaming requires the use of the internet and is usually free, though some streaming services do charge a subscription fee.
- ★ Netflix and Amazon are among those that offer a paid-for video streaming service, enabling the user to stream television shows and movies for a subscription fee.
- ★ Video streaming usually contains pre-recorded material, such as that seen on YouTube.
- ★ Some video streaming apps, such as YouTube, allow users to comment on the videos of other users.
- ★ Free video streaming services can be used to distribute porn or self-harming videos.
- ★ If your child is watching YouTube, be aware that an innocent sounding video of My Little Pony can contain porn. It is a good idea not to allow young children to watch YouTube and stick to YouTube Kids.

Enjoying Video Streaming safely and managing the risks

- ★ **Do your homework** – Take time to research the specific app or service that your child would like to use. Read reviews as well as the Privacy Policies and Terms of Use to find out about privacy settings, managing inappropriate content and how app developers may use your personal information. You can also learn about 'acceptable use' policies of the app or service and find advice on securing online accounts and setting privacy settings on devices.
- ★ **Communicate your expectations** – Make clear to your child what is and is not acceptable online behaviour. You need to accept that allowing your child access to online apps like these, requires trust and clear boundaries, for their own wellbeing. Ensure that they are clear about what content is acceptable to create, view and share and remind them never to share nude images.
- ★ **Signing Up** – Some video streaming apps require the creation of an account. Encourage your child to keep log in details and passwords secure and share them with you.
- ★ **Create Boundaries – If your child wants to be a vlogger, get involved and see the type of material they are producing.**
- ★ **Streaming Original Videos** – If your child must create video content, encourage them to think carefully about the content and whether it is appropriate for them to share with others. Discuss and agree boundaries to ensure that videos are appropriate. Remind them that their videos, if posted online, can be shared by other followers.
- ★ **Streaming Apps** – If your child wants to use video streaming, help them to find child-friendly apps such as YouTube Kids, ToonGoggles and PokémonTV. Remember even apps, games and websites that are designed for children can never be guaranteed safe.
- ★ **Legal streaming** – using approved and legal streaming sites and apps can help you and your child avoid illegal streaming and downloading of films and TV programmes. Legal sites and apps are less likely to have hidden malware in downloadable or streamed content.
- ★ **Paid for apps, games and streaming services** – Consider paying for streaming services. There are separate children's content sections on paid-for apps including Amazon and Netflix.
- ★ **Permissions and respectful behaviour** – Remind your child that creating video content whilst out and about should be carried out sensibly. Some public places may require specific permission to film and it may be unsafe to include details of location on videos. If other people are appearing in recordings, it is polite and respectful to ask their permission to post or live stream.
- ★ **Reporting** – Some, but not all, video streaming apps allow users to report others. Encourage your child to make use of this feature, if available, if they encounter any inappropriate video content.
- ★ **Model positive and safe online behaviour** – Safe behaviour online starts with us as adults. Following basic safety suggestions and demonstrating these will help your child to follow in your footsteps. You also have a better chance of staying safer online yourself.





- ★ **Download and use the app** – Having a go at video streaming yourself as this can help you understand how the app and process works. Creating appropriate content together will help you and your child learn how to live stream safely. It can be fun and creative and its not difficult to see why it is so popular but follow the steps above to keep your child protected.

Create and stream appropriate content safely!

