Top games

YGAM for Parents

There are far too many games to list them all. We have looked at the top played games identified by our young people, along with the most addictive online games to provide you with some information to help you understand what your child is playing, along with helpful tips for when setting boundaries.

Informative piece to educate parents on the top playing games

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Apex Legends	16	Players collect armour, ammo and weapons to eliminate other squads to win. There is a choice of characters who have unique skills sets	Free to play but there are in-app purchases which can cost up to £8 each. Players can purchase apex coins with real money to buy apex packs or loot boxes

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Each game is around 20-30 minutes	This game encourages long term play. Some contents can be gory	Be aware of the amount of in-app purchases which will appeal to anyone who is wanting to gather additional resources and gain an advantage to win. **Setting time limits** Allow for a number of games - if they are allowed to play for an hour they can fit 2 games in comfortably.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Angry Birds	16	Multi-coloured birds trying to eliminate all the pigs. This game is mainly for smartphones but can be played on consoles or computers. Due to the success there are many versions and spin offs available with 22 different games	Can use gems to buy extra lives

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Many people still play the original and it is suitable for all ages	This game can be seriously addictive and encourages continuous play	The free to download versions contains many apps, which can include gambling style apps. **Setting time limits** This is a continuous game which is seriously addictive so allow for a set time of play and allow for the fact it will be hard to get them to stop playing.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Battlefield	18+	Shooting game set in World War One. It has many different multi-player options	Company coins can be earnt and allows you to buy cosmetic items Battlefield currency can be bought with money to buy cosmetic items but will not help progression

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Reported it plays homage to WW1	Extreme Violence and strong language	Single players takes 6 hours to complete

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Call of Duty	18+	Set in World War Two, it is a multi-player game which allows players to talk to and fight each other	COD points to be exchanged for weapons or skins

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
You can block chat	Bad language and extreme violence	There are other games which may be suitable for younger players without the extreme violence and language.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Clash of Clans	13	Build your village, design your base and defend your turf or join in with others to fight others.	Free to download Have flash up purchases In-app purchases range from £3.99 - £79.99 Can buy skins for heroes, research potions and upgrade for additional features

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Multi-player options	Can be seriously addictive. Has flash up purchases to tempt people to buy.	This game takes up to 5 years to complete! Clan games can last for 4 days. They do have a feature where they enforce a break after 3 hours of consecutive play but there is no natural stop in the game so this would need a time limit but be prepared it will be hard to stop play. Ensure you have password protected purchases if sharing your phone or a family account.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Minecraft	13+ 7+	A virtual 3D land where users can create their own worlds using building blocks (think of it as an online lego site), Players can play in multi-player mode to help each other build new creations. Minecraft has a YouTube channel which provides hints and tips for people to watch. There are different versions of Minecraft available to use.	Minecraft has virtual currency, called minecoins to buy other user created content

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Encourages team work and imagination as they can create anything. Can develop skills in problem solving, planning, design skills, creativity, and organisation. Minecraft Education edition has lots of resources that could be useful to encourage learning through play	Has a chat feature with minimal controls in place. Does not have a report feature	This is a game with continuous play so imposing a time limit to play would be the best option.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
FIFA		Fifa is a virtual football role playing game. Choose your team and play against the computer or other players online. You can create mini-leagues, play in tournaments and create your ultimate team.	You can buy packs which contain consumable items, new kits or players. There are different types of packs which contain certain level players.

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Provides opportunities to create your own fantasy team. Competitive football allows players to change their settings to different levels allowing for all the family to play together.	The game itself can be addictive and the FUT packs are very addictive (think old school match attack packs) as everyone wants to achieve the best players with a VERY low percentage actually doing so	As you can play with anyone in the world, check their privacy settings. When setting boundaries allow for number of games rather than a set time to avoid your child being made to finish during a game.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Fortnite	12+	A game which set the gaming world alight. A game of survival where 100 players fight or shoot each other whilst gathering weapons and gear to be the last one standing. The game is fast paced and action packed. There are many channels on YouTube where people can get hints and tips or watch others play on Fortnite.	Using real money to purchase V Bucks to then buy cosmetic items such as skins, outfits, character models, gliders, emotes and the ultimate Battle Pass. These do not affect your game play. These start at £7.99 for 1,000 V bucks to £40 for 6,000 V bucks. V Bucks can be earned whilst playing. They have a daily shop which refreshes every 24 hours so you have an opportunity to purchase novelty items which other players may not have.

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Games encourage you to work as a team to help survive in small group play. It has reporting features	Both the game and YouTube channel can be seriously addictive. There are many different chat features: live chat, private chat or people can remain anonymous so watch who your child is talking to	Most games are 20 minutes long or less so your child can look at how many games they can potentially play in a set time limit.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Pokemon	13+	Be aware of the different versions of pokemon available. Pokemon Sword/Shield is an immersive Nintendo Switch Game that can be saved and paused at any time, except in battles. Pokemon Go is for smartphones, a virtual google maps it uses your location to helps players catch pokemon characters. AS you approach a character you try and capture them with Pokeballs. The aim is to capture as many as possible	Pokemon Go has in-game currency to purchase pokeballs

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Pokemon Go is a great way to get active. It is free to download and play	There have been reports of young people using the maps to locate others, resulting in bullying and violence.	Discuss with your child how far away they are allowed to go, for example they have a 2 mile radius to their house to explore and set a time limit for how long they can play.

Name	PEGI Rating	Brief	Purchases
Rocket League		A vehicle football game where two teams face off to score in the others net utilising the arena to their advantage. Easy to use controls. A new rocket league series is coming out this year.	Cosmetic content is regularly released and often features collaborations with things like Batman etc that can be highly desirable to players. Available to purchase is a rocket pass which provides new challenges, increases the tier levels, offers a range of unique customisations and unlocks new items. These passes last a few months.

Pros	Cons	Boundaries
Fun, competitive and encourages team play. Can be played with friends		Matches tend to last for around 5 minutes so your child can work out how many rounds/games they can play in the time frame given