

Many people do not associate gambling with children, no surprise really when you consider that for the majority of activities you have to be over 18 to participate. However, there are a number ways young people can participate in gambling legally, or that simulate gambling.

Amusement Arcades

Amongst the video games, virtual racing games and rides are fairground-style games, competitive games and sports-style games which provide endless opportunities to play for the chance to accumulate tickets which can be exchanged for a prize, the more tickets you win the bigger the prize. In addition coin pushers with options of 2p or 10p provide opportunities to win money, along with toys, stickers or sweets. Toy grabbers provide chances to win soft toys of all sizes or even electronic devices.



Fairs and Fetes

Tombolas, raffles, hook-a-prize are all activities that require you to spend money on the chance of winning a prize with no guaranteed income. Popular at village or school fetes, community gatherings such as fireworks evenings or as community fundraisers.

Family Fun

Families often come together to participate in a bet on big sporting events such as the Grand National or select numbers for the lottery. Although the child is not placing the money themselves they are encouraged to choose a horse, pick their favourite number or scratch to reveal the icons on a scratch card.



Many of these activities are fun and children can participate in them safely. However, it is still important to set limits and to stick to them.

Gambling-style activities

We cover this topic in further detail in some of our other documents on this website but it is worth noting that there are gambling-style activities



children participate in. Whilst these are not classed as gambling they often feature gambling-style

Online gaming

Whether on a console or tablet, there are games and apps which offer players opportunities to purchase additional content for either virtual currency or real money to provide an advantage in a game.

When buying items online, shops can entice you in by offering a lucky dip, spin the wheel or open the box to receive money off, free accessories or free delivery so you choose to shop there.

These activities are similar to gambling style activities. For further information please visit our gaming section.