

Safer Family Gaming & Entertainment with Xbox 360: A Simple 10-Step Guide for Parents

This guide provides 10 easy to follow steps that can help parents and caregivers ensure the gaming, and entertainment, experiences they enjoy on their Xbox 360 are appropriate for them and their family.

1. **Xbox 360 Setup.** Keep the console in a common area such as the living room. This allows the whole family to easily jump in and play. It also helps you to stay involved and engaged in what, when and how your kids are playing games and enjoying entertainment on Xbox 360.
2. **Physical Safety.** If playing Kinect for Xbox 360, make sure you have adequate play space to avoid bumping into things, or each other while you're playing. Like all motion control experiences, some games may require more play space depending on how much room is needed to move around. And don't forget to take a break if you get tired or sore.
 - For most games, a minimum of six to eight feet between you and the sensor is recommended.
3. **ESRB Ratings.** Choose games that are appropriate for your family by learning about ESRB Ratings and reviewing games as a family before you buy. To learn more:
 - Visit ESRB.org for information about game ratings and content for all of the newest game titles.
 - Visit m.ESRB.org on your mobile phone for ratings and content on-the-go.
4. **Family Settings.** You can access Console Safety under "Family Settings" on the My Xbox channel on the dashboard. Turn Console Safety "On" to manage Family Settings like:
 - Control access to games based on ESRB ratings
 - Set ESRB title exceptions for specific games
 - Control access to movies and TV shows based on MPAA and TV Parental Guidelines ratings
 - Block Access to Xbox LIVE and new membership creation
 - Set time limits on the console with the Family Timer

Click [here](#) to for a step-by-step guide to setting Console Safety.

5. **Family Timer.** Because balance is key, we encourage you to set the Xbox 360 Family Timer to control the amount of time your kids use the console on a daily or weekly basis.
 - Since the Family Timer is set per console and not per gamer, anyone using the console will count against the time limit.

Click [here](#) to for a step-by-step guide to setting the Family Timer.



6. **Secret Pass code.** Create a secret pass code in order to save your changes to Family Settings. This secret pass code will allow you to control access to a variety of parental control features and helps ensure that only *you* have the option to make any changes.
7. **Online Safety.** Monitor and control your child's online gaming and activity with these steps.
 - To access Xbox LIVE, decide whether you want to purchase a standard Xbox LIVE Gold Membership or an Xbox LIVE [Gold Family Pack Membership](#).
 - Online Safety Settings come with Intelligent Default Settings for Child, Teen or Adult profiles based on the member's age. You can customize these settings within each child's profile under the Online Safety panel by clicking "Customize."
 - These settings allow you to control activities such as browsing Internet Explorer for Xbox, voice and text chat, video communication, who your children play with online and what content they can access.

Click [here](#) to for a step-by-step guide to setting Xbox LIVE Online Safety.

8. **Kinect Safety Features.** Customize Online Safety features related to Kinect for Xbox 360 for each child's profile within "Privacy" settings. There you'll be able to allow or block:
 - Kinect Sharing: This feature allows you to send pictures captured during Kinect games outside of the console where they can then be uploaded to your social media pages.
 - Video Kinect: This feature allows you to video chat over Xbox LIVE to other Xbox LIVE and Windows Live Messenger customers such as your friends and family.
 - These features are automatically blocked for children 13 and under, and allowed for teens and adults. You can customize these settings at any time under the Online Safety "Privacy" settings.

For more information, and frequently asked questions on Kinect family safety and privacy, please visit Xbox.com/KinectPrivacy.

9. **Have a Discussion.** After you've customized your Xbox 360 Family Settings, have a discussion about what you've chosen and why. It may not always prevent arguments with your kids, but it helps ensure everyone is on the same page. You can change your Family Settings at any time by selecting "Family Settings" from the "My Xbox" channel on the dashboard.
10. **Visit www.GetGameSmart.com** to access the most current parental controls tools, expert tips and resources to help you and your family enjoy video games in ways that are safer, healthier and more balanced.

