

10 Things Parents Need to Know About Xbox LIVE and Kids Safety

[Steven Woda](#)

Posted by on **May 1, 2019 at 1:50 PM**



Xbox LIVE is the online service for the [Xbox 360](#). With a paid gold membership and a set of headphones, your child can play online with a community of 40 million other users worldwide.

This can be seriously awesome for the gaming enthusiast in your house, but there are 10 important things parents should know about [Xbox LIVE and keeping kids safe](#) before setting it up for their child.

1. *It's more than just a gaming site.* Xbox LIVE [users can also chat with each other](#), send and receive friend requests, and share their

profile and gaming stats.

2. *Gamertags need to be chosen wisely.* Never let your child use part of their name, hometown, or other identifying information in their gamertag.
3. *Profiles follow the child, not the console.* A child can still access all his Xbox LIVE information from a friend's house.
4. *Kids can play games with strangers.* Xbox LIVE has a "matchmaking" feature to help your child connect with gamers who have certain gamerscores or live in a certain location.
5. *People can privately chat with each other.* Up to 8 people can play and talk all at once, but two of them can pair off and talk privately if they want to.
6. *You can make your permission mandatory.* Through console controls, you can require your permission for your child to send and receive friend requests, accept game or chat invites, or buy Xbox merchandise.
7. *You can block who your child hears.* You can choose "everyone," "friends," or "no one."
8. *Parents are required to help their children set up an account.* If your under-18 child has an account and you didn't help set it up, he or she is registered as an adult.
9. *Default settings vary by age.* Child and teen accounts are mostly "friends only" by default and some features are blocked, but adult profiles are public and have full access to all features.

10. *Deactivating Xbox LIVE doesn't cancel the child's account.* On the Xbox console there is a setting to disallow Xbox LIVE access from that console – but your child can still access it on others unless you cancel his account.

Remember that the Xbox LIVE is more than just a video game, it's a social gaming universe. Always use the same [internet safety](#) cautions as you would on any other social networking site, and if at all possible, sign up yourself and spend time playing with your child, too.

Monitoring your child's accounts — in combination with parental controls for gaming and chatroom safety — sets your family up well for growing up in the digital age. [Sign up for Bark today](#) for a free, one-week trial and get alerts for potential issues like cyberbullying, online predators, adult content, suicidal ideation, and more.

-Article contributed by Jenny Evans

[Try Bark's award-winning monitoring service free for 7 days.](#)

[THIS BLOG POST WAS UPDATED ON 5/1/2019]