

### Has your Child downloaded the Gaming Social network APP Discord?

**Discord is a Gaming Social Media APP which allows adults unmonitored communication while they play games live or discuss their ideas on games. It is aimed and used by adults from around the world and has many chatrooms and displays a list of all users.**

We highly recommend that you check the settings on the APP or even better to delete this APP from their devices. Discord is a Gaming APP that is designed for Adult Gamers to discuss games while they play them. Adult language is used by the participants which can be abusive and swearing is common place. The adult themes are commonly discussed freely between adults but all in the same chat room can be exposed to.

**Discord** is poorly monitored and chat rooms have been frequented by White Supremacist and Male Supremacist groups. Last year, it was also used to distribute indecent images and pornography.

We have been made aware by West Midlands Police that children have been targeted for grooming by paedophiles and also extremist groups in the local area and so ask for parents to be vigilant.

The age rating for Discord is 13+.

For more information, look at the following web link:

<https://www.familyzone.com/anz/families/blog/discord-what-parents-need-to-know>

# Discord: What parents need to know



Image credit: [The Online Hate](#)

[Prevention Institute](#)

**If your child is obsessed with Fortnite, chances are good he's also obsessed with DISCORD. Should you be concerned?**

**Here's what parents need to know.**

Described as "Skype for gamers," Discord has become the hip way for gamers to chat about - what else? - gaming. And with 19 million daily users, it's suddenly surging faster than Uber fares on a rainy Saturday night.

## **How does it work?**

The Discord app - available for PCs, Macs and mobile devices - offers text messaging and voice and video chat. This allows gamers to confer live, mid-game, and has proved a boon for fans of team-based games like Fortnite Battle Royale, Overwatch and League of Legends.

The Fortnite server, for example - think of a Discord server as a specialised chatroom - displays hundreds of text and voice channels at once, as well as a member list which numbers into the hundreds of thousands.

Users can send direct messages to one other or listen in to larger group chats. Connecting with friends is easy - users can simply join an existing gaming server or send an email invitation to start a new one. The app also uses less

bandwidth than comparable voice-chat apps, which is another reason for its popularity.

### **What are the dangers?**

But that functionality also brings dangers for younger users. Profanity and abusive language are standard on many Discord gaming servers.

What's more, many players are discussing "mature" games - think sex, violence and drugs - and these themes will often feature in conversations.

Why? Because Discord is not an app that's aimed at kids. Although anyone over 13 - or anyone who claims to be over 13 - can download it for free, first and foremost, Discord is a social networking tool that is geared toward *adults*.

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And there are other dangers too. Over its short lifespan, the app has morphed into territory that has nothing to do with gaming - including male- and white-supremacist groups, whose members can chat anonymously.

Technically, hate groups are banned by the app. In practical terms, there is little the developers can do to flush them out entirely. And as soon as one troublesome group is ejected, another inevitably springs up to take its place.

The worst example occurred only a year ago, when the platform was suddenly rife with anonymous and unsolicited child pornography. Although technically users can only direct message each other by consent, spammers can circumvent these restrictions.

Then there's cost. The "freemium" version has limited features, compared to a \$US4.99 a month subscription featuring animated avatars, customisable emojis and better upload capacity.

### **Should I be concerned?**

So should you be concerned if your child is on Discord? That depends.

Under-13s have no business being on Discord, legally or otherwise. So that's pretty straightforward.

As for older kids, they need to be aware that they can block unsuitable content using the app's Explicit Content Filter. They can also easily mute or block individual users, and limit "adds" to friends.

Will this prevent all dangers - whether from bullying, obscenity, porn or hate speech? No, it will not.

### **What are my next steps?**

If you're concerned about your child's use of Discord, your best first step is to read Discord's and [Parent's Guide to Discord](#) - bearing in mind that this content was prepared by the developers for the express purpose of attracting more users.

Then, talk to your child. Sit beside them while they give you a tour of the app, and encourage them to explain how they use it and why.

Help your child to set up the Explicit Content Filter, and review privacy precautions recommended by the app's developers.

And most importantly, use parental controls to maintain balance in your child's online activity. Gaming has a place in the life of our digital kids - but when it starts to take over, it's time to take action.

*Family Zone is the parental control tool of choice for thousands of parents in Australia and beyond. Use it to manage gaming, block adult content, set study, play and sleep-times - and so much more.*