

ORIGINAL
GAMING
ACADEMY

SAFETY GUIDE



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Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Here at Original Gaming Academy, your child's safety online is paramount. That's why we manually verified each student into our private Discord Server.

Where our Discord Server is a **safe** and **private place** for our cohorts to enjoy online gaming, the outside online space can hold many dangers. That's why we equip your child with the tools and knowledge to be safe in this world.

We've also created this guide to help educate you about the gaming world, how to setup controls and filters and to understand this online environment your children are growing up with.





Discord

You can download here: <https://discord.com/download>
You can visit the online site here: <https://discord.com/app>

Discord is a communication platform that allows people to create and join communities known as "servers" where they can chat via text, voice, and video. It was initially popular among gamers but has since expanded to include a wide variety of interest groups, including those focused on hobbies, education, and even professional work.

Here's a breakdown of what you, as a parent, might want to know about Discord:

1. Servers and Channels

Servers: These are like virtual spaces where people gather around a common interest. Each server can have multiple channels.

Channels: Inside a server, channels are where the actual communication happens. They can be text-based, where people type messages, or voice/video channels, where people can talk or video chat in real time.

2. Privacy and Safety

Private Servers: Servers can be public, meaning anyone can join, or private, meaning only people with an invitation can join. This helps in controlling who your child interacts with.

Remember - we manually verify each student into our servers.

Direct Messages: Users can send private messages to each other outside of servers. It's essential to be aware of who your child is communicating with.

Safety Features: Discord has various safety settings, including content filters, privacy settings, and reporting mechanisms for inappropriate behavior. As a parent, you can help your child set these up to ensure a safer experience.

3. Why Kids Use Discord

Social Interaction: Many kids use Discord to stay in touch with friends, especially while playing games together. It's a way for them to communicate in real-time during or outside of gaming sessions.

Interest-Based Communities: Beyond gaming, there are servers for just about every interest, from music to art to studying. It's a place where kids can meet others who share their hobbies.

4. Potential Concerns

Exposure to Inappropriate Content: While many servers are well-moderated, there is a possibility that your child could encounter inappropriate language or content, especially in less regulated communities.

Time Management: Like any social platform, Discord can be time-consuming. It's worth discussing with your child how much time they should spend on it.

Stranger Interaction: In public servers, your child might interact with people they don't know. Encouraging them to join private servers with friends they know can help mitigate this.

5. Parental Involvement

Communication: Talk to your child about how they use Discord, who they talk to, and what kind of content they're engaging with.

Set Boundaries: Establish rules for how and when your child can use Discord. You might also want to periodically review their server memberships and contacts.

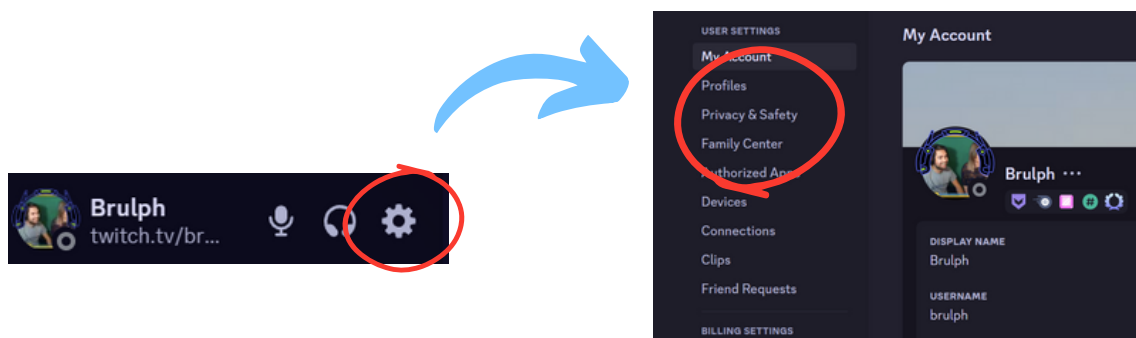
Discord can be a great tool for socialising and learning, but like any online platform, it's important to use it with awareness and caution. By staying informed and involved, you can help your child have a positive experience on Discord.

This is why we use Discord as our chosen platform, we give them a safe boundary and educate your child of the dangers outside this safe boundary.

How to Help Keep Your Child Safe on Discord

1. Filter explicit content

Parents can restrict explicit content by clicking on the “Privacy & Safety” tab in their child’s Discord profile. Filtering everything is the best option for safety, screening all direct messages for explicit content.



2. Toggle off Direct Message (DM) settings

In Discord settings, parents can enable safe direct messaging or block direct messages altogether. When the child is logged in to Discord, navigate to the settings gear icon, click Privacy & Safety, and scroll to “Server Privacy Defaults.”

Next, toggle off “Allow direct messages from server members.” A message will then appear asking if you’d like to apply the change to all existing servers.

3. Enable friend request settings

Friend request settings determine who is allowed to send users friend requests. Within Discord’s privacy and safety settings, parents can adjust who can add their child as a friend using “Everyone,” “Friends of Friends,” or “Server Members” options.

4. Practice other account safety tips

Parents should teach kids how to recognize and avoid phishing links or malware-laden downloads. Parents should also encourage their children to speak up if they receive DMs from strangers.

Bad actors that befriend your child could be impersonating Discord staff, attempting to take over the child's account, or soliciting sensitive information.

5. Block unknown users

Instruct your children not to talk to strangers online, and show them how to block accounts that they don't recognize. In a DM chat, kids can click on a person's username to get to their profile. From there, the child can click on three dots in the top right corner, and choose "Block."

6. Report content or users on Discord

If a child tells you about suspicious activity on their account, work with them to report content or users to Discord. In the report, be sure to provide as much information as possible, including usernames and screenshots.

7. Set up a strong password and two-factor authentication (2FA)

Make sure your child's password is strong (i.e., unique, long, and complex) and is tied to a two-factor authentication (2FA) code method, such as SMS or an authenticator app.



8. Only join verified, age-appropriate servers

Urge kids to only join verified public servers. Verification badges appear on the top left corner of a server and look like a checkmark.

These badges indicate that a server is affiliated with a business, brand, or figure of public interest. Also, confirm that an active moderation team is patrolling any servers that your child has joined. Click on “Server Settings,” then “Members,” and try to find at least one member with a crown next to their name.

9. Turn off access to NSFW servers on iOS

Children shouldn't be able to access NSFW servers, but you should ensure that's the case if they are iOS users. Sign in to Discord on your iPhone and navigate to User Settings. Click on Privacy & Safety, find “Allow access to age-restricted content on iOS,” and verify that the toggle is off.

10. Know how to respond in the event of an incident

Report any event of harassment, spam, or abuse to Discord. It's critical to provide as much information as possible so that Discord can block a user or users violating their guidelines.

Collect and submit screenshots of the chat, pictures, videos, user IDs, and other IDs for specific messages and channels. If you'd like to report a specific message on your iOS device, you can hold down a message and click “Report.”

For more personalised information, please do contact us directly.

