11 Family-Friendly Minecraft Servers Where Your Kid Can Play Safely Online

Your child will be more comfortable playing Minecraft online if they have had some time to themselves or with family members.

Minecraft can be played on a public server to take it to new heights. There are many benefits to playing on a public server. One, you have a new community of likeminded players to connect with and collaborate. This will help your child develop social skills such as cooperation, compromise, and problem-solving.

You will also find servers that have huge, pre-built worlds. These worlds include amazing cities and buildings, transport networks and mini-games that your kid can explore.

Most servers can extend Minecraft by using many server plugins. These plugins offer a variety of gameplay features, such as money systems or jobs, role playing elements, teleports and role-playing. These features can be added by any Minecraft server.

You may be thinking: Aren't public server dangerous for my child? How can I be sure they are safe from bullying, bad language, and other online predators if they log on to a server?

Of course, no public server is 100 percent safe, but there are some fantastic Minecraft servers out there that cater especially to kids and families. Minecraft Realms allows you to set up a private Minecraft server for your child and close friends.

This guide will highlight eleven of best Minecraft servers that are family-friendly. You'll also learn a bit more about how Minecraft servers work, and how to connect to these servers and start playing online.

I should mention that this guide only works with the PC/Mac Minecraft version. There are some servers that are family-friendly for Minecraft Pocket Edition and Xbox, but most servers work well with the PC/Mac versions.

So let's dive in to the world of online, family friendly Minecraft! We'll start by looking at some important concepts related to public Minecraft servers.

It is important to understand key server concepts

Before you join a server public, these are some terms and concepts that you should be familiar with:

Servers vs. worlds: Usually, a single public Minecraft server has several worlds that you can jump between. There may be a main survival world, a world in creative mode, and perhaps a third world for mini games. There will be a central lobby or hub that allows you to teleport between worlds. PvP or PvE? PvP stands as "players vs. players", while the PvE acronym stands for "players vs. environments". Most public servers, especially ones that are family-friendly and safe, are PvE. That means you can fight monsters instead of players. Some servers offer PvP arenas that allow you to fight other players. (Usually, if you die within a PvP arena you don't lose your entire stuff like you would in a regular survival game. It's purely for entertainment. Spawn (or Start): Your player will usually spawn or start at a particular point in the universe, commonly known as "spawn". This is usually located in or near a central city or area, or in a lobby. To return to your spawn point, you can type the command "spawn" Rules: Nearly every server has rules about what you can do and what you cannot do. Family-friendly servers, as you might imagine, have many strict rules. It is important to read all rules. (When you join servers, you will be required to read all the rules. If you don't follow the rules, you can be banned temporarily or even permanently from the server. Griefing and grief protection are two major problems on public servers. This is when you destroy other players' buildings or steal their stuff. Many servers use different plugins to stop griefing. Typically these plugins let you lock your chests, doors and furnaces, and you can also claim a patch of land as your own - this means that nobody else can create or break blocks within your claim. Griefing is prohibited in the server rules. Grievers are warned and then ban. Most server admins have the ability to "roll back" your building to the original state it was in before it became griefed. Text chat: Minecraft's text chat (the "T" key) is the default way your child can communicate with other players. Chat can be private or public (that is, one to one). Minecraft Servers Your child will need to have some reading ability in order to chat. However, you can still help them with online chat. Family-friendly servers have automatic filtering that prevents swearing in chat. Remember to remind your child that online chat is not safe. Voice chat: Some servers can link up with voice chat servers like Ventrilo, TeamSpeak, or Mumble to allow players to communicate with each other while they play. If your child uses voice chat, you need to be aware of who they are talking to and what they're discussing. Server commands: To get the most out of online playing, you'll need to give various commands to the server as you play. You can give a command by pressing / (slash), followed with the command name and sometimes additional text. For example, the command /sethome usually sets your homepoint to the point you are currently standing at, while /home teleports your homepoint. The commands vary from server to server, but you'll soon get the hang of them. Mods: If mods have been added to your Minecraft client you need to be careful when connecting. Most servers ban all mods, including those that allow you cheat. OptiFine mods - which are designed to make your game run faster - are usually acceptable.

How to join a server

Joining a public Minecraft server is very easy. Just open the Minecraft launcher and click Play to run the main Minecraft game. To add a server, click the Add Server button once you have reached the main title screen.

Next, enter a name for your server in the Server Name box. Then, in the Server Address box, enter the server address. This will usually be a domain address such as mc.intercraften.org. Or an IP address such as 1.2.3.4. Then click Done to add the server to your server list:

To add a server, click Add Server and enter the server details. The Join Server button lets you connect to the server.

It's as easy as clicking on a server to connect to it from the list.

Let's take a look at some issues that may arise when you join a server.

You can divide public Minecraft servers into two types:

Whitelisted servers are protected by a whitelist - that is, a list of usernames that are allowed to join the server. To join a whitelisted Minecraft server, you will need to apply to be added to the whitelist. This typically involves filling in a form and then waiting a few hours to receive your approval. Most servers require you fill out separate applications for your child as well as for yourself. Once you're added to the whitelist the server will be opened for you as described above. Non-whitelisted server do not have a Whitelist. This means anyone can join the Server by simply entering the Server's Address in their Minecraft Client, as shown above.

A whitelisted server application can be a hassle, especially when you have an eight year old who is always on your mind. But it does offer an extra level of security as all players on the server are known by the server administrators.

Versions for server and client

When joining a server, one thing to be aware of is that your Minecraft client (game), must match the version number on the server. You won't be connected if the versions don't match.

Minecraft 1.7.9 is the current version. However, many servers are still running 1.7.2 or 1.6.4. Sometimes, the server's site will tell you what version they have. However, sometimes it is best to test it and see. If you get an error message using the 1.7.9 clients, you can try the 1.7.2 version instead.

Fortunately it's easy to switch to different versions of the Minecraft client. In the Minecraft launcher, you can click New Profile to create different profiles that use any Minecraft version

you like. Then, just select the profile you want to use from the drop-down list in the launcher, and click Play.

It's easy to set up the Minecraft launcher with profiles for different versions. Here are the profiles I created for 1.7.2 & 1.7.9. (OptiFine is a handy mod that makes your Minecraft run faster.) The dropdown "Use version" in the topmost window allows you to choose the version.

The complete list of family friendly servers

Now that you know the basics of playing online with Minecraft, here are 11 excellent Minecraft servers for you and your kid to play on.

I have played on all of them. They are not listed in any particular order. I think they all are very good and each one is suitable and welcoming for parents, grandparents, and kids alike.

You'll find that each server has its own unique "feel", so it's worth exploring a few of them to find out which one feels right for you.

Cubeville is a really nice server that's committed to being family-friendly. You don't have to apply to join cubeville.org - you can just type cubeville.org in your Minecraft client. However, the server is well-policed and has a clear list of rules. When you first join, it will provide a detailed tutorial.

Cubeville has a large central area, but there are many smaller towns and settlements scattered throughout the world.
There are so many fun things to do and so many nice people to meet. It's quite crowded, so to build, you'll need a ride on a transport system and head to the edge.

Cubeville also has a clever money system that allows you to earn cash by completing quests; smart automated shops; and an excellent transport network. It also offers land and chest protection, so you can claim your little corner of Cubeville.

Update 14 April 2019 Towncraft has been closed. Towncraft staff have created Ohanacraft, a family-friendly server that adheres to Towncraft's guiding principles.

Updated 10 Aug 2020: Towncraft has been restored to normal operation! It still follows the same rules as before, and uses the same server names. Yay!

Towncraft is not on the whitelist, so anyone can join. Just enter play.towncraft.us in your

Minecraft client. It also has a TeamSpeak server that allows voice chat. The IP address can be found on the Towncraft site.

Towncraft has a lot more to it than being a simple world to explore or build in. The world has been wiped out by a meteor. Now it's up you and your friends to rebuild it. You start the game by choosing a trade to begin with. As you gain more skills in your chosen trade, you unlock new abilities.

Towncraft is very quiet and allows for a more relaxed crafting experience. There are many children and parents playing on the server. The people are generally friendly and helpful.

The server uses the Zombie Apocalypse plugin; this randomly makes a horde of zombies appear around the player at night, which you must defeat to receive a reward. It's possible for younger players to get a little scared by this, but it's great fun for older kids.

Towncraft uses Grief Prevention plugin to protect your house from other players' grief.

Kolgrath, Towncraft admin, has created a player guide as well as a handy parent's guide to Towncraft. It is well worth a look.

Intercraften is a very popular family-friendly Minecraft server. It's well designed and has extremely helpful moderators, who are excellent at solving problems, and looking after both parents and children.

The server is whitelisted. To join, you will need to first fill out the application form.

Intercraften is a huge server with several worlds, including New Survival (the current main world), a CTF (Capture the Flag) world, a peaceful world, a creative world, a mining world, and lots more.

You can earn coins by working for the server's money system. You can use the cash to buy stuff in shops, and also to claim chunks of land so that others can't grief your builds. If you do get griefed, the moderators are very careful to set everything right again (and ban the offender from the server).

As well as doing stuff with the usual server commands, such as /spawn, /sethome and /home, you can also use the user-friendly Intercraften Menu book (given free when you join) to pick jobs, perform commands and play mini-games.

The Sandlot is a whitelisted, family-friendly Minecraft server that's been running since December 2011. It is run by a former schoolteacher and has a set of rules and filters to stop any abusive behaviour.

The Sandlot offers a balanced selection of worlds. This is what I love about it. Semi-Vanilla Survival is a very similar Minecraft world to the standard, but with Grief Prevention and a virtual currency system tied to gold ingots so players can set up shops.

Easy Survival is a wonderful world for younger children. Semi-Vanilla Survival might be called Scrabble. Junior Scrabble is the equivalent. Rather than having to spend ages digging around for resources and items, kids can choose a job (such as farming) to earn money, then spend their money to buy items in a big mall in the centre. This makes for a much easier, more relaxed gameplay style. This is a fantastic idea.

The Sandlot also includes a Creative World, as well as a number of PvP Game Worlds such as hunger games (based loosely off the movies and books), spleef and others. Skyblock is a world with floating islands that offers many challenges.

The Lobby is the way to access all these worlds. It's a wonderful building that was inspired by Hogwarts in the Harry Potter series. (Check out the secret passages!). This world, along with many others, is beautifully designed to create a fun and welcoming environment for your child.

CrazyPig is a small family-friendly Minecraft server with a great community. It was initially created by a UK dad for his son. Now it is open to all. It is not on the whitelist; you can join by adding play.crazypig.net as an extension to your Minecraft client.

CrazyPig uses "belts" to rank players according to how long they've been on the server. As you spend more on the server, your belts will automatically increase in rank. These belts allow you to access certain worlds as well as more "homes", which you can set up and warp to.

There is also a currency system and a simple virtual marketplace for players to sell and buy items.

CrazyPig has several interconnected worlds, as with most servers. From the lobby, you can choose a warp world to travel to. There's the Main World in which you'll build your home and spend most time. There's also the Creative World (you need Green Belt or higher to get it); a Games World featuring a giant chess table; and an Extra Hard World if your brave enough!

CrazyPig isn't whitelisted. However, it has a friendly and helpful community of players and employs the Grief Prevention plug-in to stop players grieving. It also has very good automatic language filters that eliminate swearing.

A fairly novel aspect of CrazyPig is the concept of regions. The main world is automatically divided into areas. You can join and be added to the new region. But you can also warp between regions. This ensures each area of the globe doesn't become overcrowded. Although it may seem confusing at first it becomes quite easy once you get the hang.

CrazyPig can be a great server for those who are looking for a community with a few rules and freedom to have fun and build.

Addstar

Addstar is an active server in Australia that is child-friendly. It isn't whitelisted so anyone can join. But it is moderated and comes with LWC Protection (for locking things) as well as Grief Prevention (for claiming the land so it can't been grieved).

Addstar follows the familiar format of a central spawn town, with warps that take you off to other worlds. There are several portals into a fairly standard survival world, as well as a portal to a creative world with tons of amazing creations (only donators to the server can build here).

In the spawn village, you will also find warps to tons if mini-games such as BlockHunt and CTF (capture The Flag), survival games, and Connect 4, checkers and even chess!

There's always a lot happening on the Addstar server, and - apart from a brief intro - you're pretty much thrown in at the deep end, so this server is probably better for older kids, or those who already know Minecraft and Minecraft servers well. The staff are friendly and always helpful.

MineSquish is a whitelisted server with a fairly strict application process. Register on the forums to apply. You will need to introduce yourself and participate in the forums for a few minutes. Only then can your application be whitelisted. An exception is made if you're applying on behalf of your kid and they're too young to post on the forums. In this situation, you can only make an introduction posting and show that the server rules have been read and explained to your child.

This relatively lengthy whitelisting process, combined with strict server rules, ensures that

players are fairly well vetted before they play, and helps to foster a good community spirit.

The MineSquish server is very family-friendly and has all sorts of features to make the game safe to play for youngsters, including a monster-free spawn (starting) town, a rail and road system to make it easy to get around and avoid getting lost, carefully managed towns, and lockable chests, doors and furnaces.

The server doesn't have antigriefing block protection so your build won't be demolished by other players. However, players are generally well behaved in the MineSquish Community and the server admins do a good job of catching griefers so griefing does not tend to be a major problem.

There are many worlds that you can explore.

Here's a good MineSquish starter book for parents and young children.

SafeCraft

SafeCraft (formerly Win Family Survival) is a small, growing, family-friendly server that was developed by a dedicated group made up of parents and children from the UK. It employs strict filtering and whitelisting to create a child-friendly server that allows players of all abilities to help each other. Moderators are especially open to helping children with ADHD and those on the autistic spectrum.

The server has a lively, fun feel with a vibrant main lobby (see the screenshot above). This server is safe and welcoming, which will appeal to both young and old. The server includes some other nice touches such as "Server Champion" awards and recognising birthdays, which add to the sense of community.

From the lobby you can reach a standard survival world (grief protection is included); the SafeCraft world (no hostile mobs - great for littler kids); a world for resource gathering, and heaps of great mini-games including Paintball, Block Hunt, hunger/survival games, TNT Run and Skyblock. The lobby also contains a few spleef areas.

This is a great server for children who enjoy a safe, secure environment and a close-knit family.

Blocklandia is a fun, family-friendly whitelisted server that is suitable for kids of all ages (some players are as young as 4!). When you join, the moderators will usually guide you through the server. They might even offer to build your first home!

The spawn (starting zone) is themed like a large shipyard. Each ship takes you on a journey to a different place. Mainland is the main survival zone, while Peaceful has no hostile mobs nor fall damage. You can also reach the Creative world via a hot air balloon.

Blocklandia's money system is based on "shillings". There are many jobs that will pay you shillings. These include weaponsmith, builder/sorcerer, alchemist, pirate, and sorcerer.

The large library, located right next to the shipyard, is a nice addition. You can write a book and add it to the library, as well as read other people's books.

Although you cannot claim land in survival worlds from the server, it does have the LWC plug which allows you lock chests and doors as well as furnaces. In addition, there's a very clear, detailed set of rules (that you have to read when you first connect), things like TNT and fire are generally banned, and the moderators are very good at sorting out any griefing issues.

Blocklandia can be a great choice if your child is new to Minecraft and wants to find a friendly, supportive community.

Famcraft was created by parents who wanted to provide a safe environment for their children to play Minecraft online. It has been in operation for a few years now and has a great community of players, from 5 to 77 years old!

Famcraft is not whitelisted - just add survival.famcraft.com to your Minecraft client, and away you go. One of the friendly staff members will likely offer you a tour when you first sign up. There are usually at most two staff members online at any one time.

The main survival server is huge, with lots of great features. The main spawn area is a beautiful wooden seaside village, with stargates (warps) that link off to various locations on the map. There are six randomly changing warps that lead to wilderness, where you can mine or build, free farms for resources, cities to explore and a carnival. You also have the option of playing PvP and mazes. There are many plugins that allow you to make cool stuff with signs or redstone, such a lift, drawbridges iron gates and hidden areas.

Famcraft includes more than the usual server elements such as a currency and jobs system and grief prevention using LWC and PreciousStones. Famcraft also has some unique touches that give it a community feel.

There are many clans you can join to work together on projects, and there are many giant

statues of players to show your appreciation for the help of other players on the server.

Server staff stream family-friendly music with Mixlr regularly, which adds an extra element of fun to the gameplay. They even host dance parties in an amazing dance area around the world!

Famcraft also has a Mumble server which many players use to chat with each other while playing. A #famcraft IRC channel allows players to chat even when they aren't playing the game. All IRC chat also appears in the regular Minecraft in-game chat window.

You can also find a world with the FTB modpack, which allows you to have more fun and games in addition to the main survival realm.

Famcraft staff is friendly, helpful, and polite. They do everything to ensure that everyone has fun and is safe.

YAMS

YAMS - Yet Another Minecraft Server - is a small family-friendly server run by a dedicated team in the UK. It uses whitelisting. To apply for the whitelist, register first in the forums and then post a request for whitelisting in the "Introduce & Whitelist Yourself" forum.

What I really love about YAMS, is the thought that has gone into creating a realistic environment. There is a central spawn area with a large mall and four satellite cities, all connected by a network of transport. Each satellite town has its own feel and building code. For example, buildings in one town are made from cobblestone while others have wooden buildings. (To build in a city, you must first show you can build nice buildings in the sandbox located within the town.

You will find plenty of sightseeing opportunities throughout the land, not only in the towns. There is also an impressive coliseum, complete with PvP games, a university (in the development), a theatre. A windmill, a maze. An observation tower. There are many hidden gems to be found throughout the map.

YAMS does NOT have grief protection or chest locking. However the server has a close-knit group and a set rules that help keep things moving along smoothly. Any griefed or stolen items can be restored by the server administrator.

If your kid likes playing closely with a team inside a structured environment then they will

likely enjoy this server.

Have fun playing!

I hope you've found this guide to family-friendly Minecraft servers useful, and that you find a great server that you and your kid can enjoy. Maybe I'll see ya on one!