

## Is Minecraft Kid-friendly?

## Is Minecraft harmful for children?

If you are a parent of children who are older than 5 years old, the odds are high that you're familiar with Mojang's most popular online game "Minecraft." Is Minecraft appropriate for kids or not? It is all dependent on.

You have probably dropped a few buzzwords like "Steve," "Creepers," "Baby Zombie Pigman" in an effort to pretend you have been listening when your young "Minecraft" fan prattled on about a mod or whatever-it's-called. You may have enjoyed an enticing brown and green cupcake at a birthday celebration, and then you realized the theme was at work.

Most likely, you have probably requested that your child stop the game. Perhaps they asked for it. Then, possibly, you hid the "Minecraft"-supplying device after all kinds of ultimatums (yours) and loud protestations (your kids') and went to bed that night still cursing the "Minecraft" name under your breath.

If you have managed to escape all of this and still remain afloat, please share your experiences.

## What is "Minecraft?"

"Minecraft" can be played as a multi-player or single-player game. It lets kids create their own worlds using pets, homes and other resources. Prestalive There are even enemies that might be sneaking up on them at the night to strike.

With 200 million registered users and reported sales of 176 million copies globally, "Minecraft" is an international phenomenon.

## Is "Minecraft not suitable for children?"

Are they being given the keys to a kingdom which could very quickly turn into "Lord of the Flies" if the wrong hands are involved?

"Minecraft" is an online Lego game Dr. Deborah Gilboa, a expert in child development and parenting, told TODAY Parents. "Can a child go on a rogue mission with "Minecraft" and create something unsuitable or concentrate on destruction and gore? It's possible.

She said that "but that's not what's the goal or purpose of the game." "But it's not the goal or purpose of the game," she said. "Minecraft obsessions make children more creative, increase working memory, cognitive flexibility, and give them the chance to feel proud about their geeky abilities."

**Never be late to a parenting news story with the TODAY Parents newsletter! Register here.**

So the game itself isn't all bad. NBC News even used it once to explain who owns moon. But what happens to all that screen-time?

Conscientious parents, take heart: A 2017 study published in the journal *Child Development* by researchers from the Oxford Internet Institute and Cardiff University found that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines for managing children's screen time might be a bit alarmist or even misguided.

## 'Minecraft' sells 5 million copies on Xbox Live

While the AAP recommends the restriction of screen time for young children to just 1-2 hours per day, the Oxford study found that moderate use of screens above the AAP's recommended limits could actually improve the wellbeing of children.

"If anything our findings suggest that the larger family context, how parents decide on rules regarding screen time and if they're engaged in exploring the digital world together, are more important than the raw screen time," lead author Dr. Andrew Przybylski of the Oxford Internet Institute wrote in the paper. "Future research should be focused on the ways that using digital devices together with parents or care-givers and making it an opportunity for social interaction can impact children's psychological well-being as well as their curiosity and bonds formed with the caregiver."

Although these findings could be encouraging, they will not address the issue of teaching children to balance their real and virtual worlds. Maybe if we enrolled them in schools that they could attend in their "Minecraft" mods and our children would show more enthusiasm for math-related homework?