



Gooseberry Parent - Video Streaming

What is Video Streaming?

This is a method of broadcasting video content over the internet in real time. It is an alternative to actually downloading content to your device to watch later. It enables users to start watching a broadcast before the whole content has been transmitted. Netflix, Disney, Apple TV and Amazon Prime are among those that offer a paid-for video streaming service to subscribers.

Children are also able to create and stream their own video content from internet connected devices including smart phones, tablets, Xbox One or PS4. Free video streaming apps popular with children include YouTube, Periscope, TikTok and the video game live streaming site, Twitch. Instagram, Facebook and Twitter also allow for video streaming.

Key Features of Video Streaming:

POSITIVES

- Creating their own videos can be fun and creative and can introduce children to new online tools and new skills that open up future opportunities to them.
- Sharing videos with friends and family can be a pleasurable and sociable experience.
- Receiving positive feedback from others can boost children's confidence and self-esteem.

NEGATIVES

- Live streaming is by its nature immediate and unedited. Watching it can expose children to unexpected and inappropriate content, some of which could be shocking or upsetting.
- Live streaming themselves allows no time for reflection or editing and may result in content being broadcast that a child later regrets.
- Some children may feel disinhibited behind a screen compared with in real life. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour. In some cases, this can affect their reputation and impact their future or lead to blackmail or sexual exploitation.
- Live streaming may reveal information that could be used to contact them. Images recorded in the background of filming or details of school uniform can unwittingly give away personal information.
- As with all content shared publicly online, once a video has been shared it can be recorded, commented on and shared again and once this has happened it can be very difficult to have it removed. Anonymity online can lead some users to make particularly unpleasant comments.
- Depending on the terms of platform used, children may lose the ownership of the content that they share and risk it being used to promote the platform, passed to advertisers or used in other ways they don't expect.
- Some video streaming apps, such as YouTube, allow users to "like" or comment on the videos of others. Negative comments can be upsetting. Chasing "likes" can risk children becoming reliant on validation in this way or being tempted to behave inappropriately, in order to gain more likes.
- Sharing video publicly can leave children vulnerable to groomers.



Managing the risks

- **Age:** Most platforms have an age limit of at least 13 but not every child will be mature enough even at 13 to understand the risks of video streaming, including being able to resist peer pressure to behave inappropriately.
- **Wellbeing:** Video streaming can leave children vulnerable in a very public way. Consider your child's confidence and state of wellbeing and how they might be impacted by adverse comments.
- **Do your homework** – Take time to consider the specific app or service that your child would like to use. Check the website and reviews to find out about the risks and what tools are available to increase privacy and safety.
- **Download and use the app** – Having a go at live video streaming yourself. This can help you understand how the app and process works. Creating appropriate content together will help you and your child learn how to live stream safely.
- **Communicate your expectations and set boundaries** – Talk about what is and is not acceptable behaviour online, both in terms of what they create themselves and in what they view, comment on and share. Explain the consequences of inappropriate behaviour including on their reputation and the fact that videos can be recorded, commented on and shared again.
- **Privacy:** Explore the relevant privacy settings to see if it is possible to restrict who can follow or friend them or comment on their videos. Younger children should only “follow”, “friend”, or accept “follow” and “friend” requests from people they know and trust in real life.
- **Location:** Disable any location settings in video streaming apps that your child uses to ensure that they cannot be tracked to their location.
- **Permissions and respectful behaviour** – Remind your child that it is polite and respectful to ask permission of others who appear in their videos before posting or live streaming.
- **Reporting and blocking** – Some, but not all, video streaming apps allow users to block and report inappropriate content. Explore the features of the apps your child uses to make them aware of how to do so.

Create and stream appropriate content safely!