

Minecraft...Safely

What is this game my kid keeps talking about?

It's like Legos online.

- Those little blocks are like Legos that don't hurt your feet. Kids can build freely in **creative mode**. In **survival mode**, they have to defend their builds against attackers.

Is it scary?

- In survival mode, zombies, skeletons, and creepers stalk the players, forcing defensive moves and cooperation. The violence is extremely unrealistic, but **kids under 7 or with vivid imaginations may be creeped out**.

Is it teaching anything?

- Yes! **Play requires critical thinking and delayed gratification, and cooperation** makes it more fun.
- Kids learn **online etiquette**. MC gives you the chance to discuss online behavior *before* the cell phone years.

Is it safe?

- It can be. Kids are at risk for abusive play called "**griefing**:" think of one kid smashing another's Lego creation. Kids need to know game etiquette.
- Strangers can play with and talk to kids, too, in certain settings. **Kid-safe servers and setting the Pocket Edition to Single Player may be right for your kid.**



Truths to Teach

Have Fun the Smart Way

- To play, create a safe password and a username that is not your real name. **Keep this private information private!**
- Servers are public places, so playing online is like playing at a playground. **Act and speak in a way that's right for a public place.**

Avoid Grief

- **Griefing: Taking or breaking something that isn't yours online. Bullying someone in words or actions online.**
- **Don't grief!** If you accidentally do, apologize and offer to make it right.
- **Avoid grievers!** If someone's mean to you in Pocket Edition, open a new single player world...or create a new Multiplayer world and uncheck "Server visible by default" as you create it. Your world will be invisible.
- Playing on a desktop? Consider a kid-friendly server. They have games and no griefing or bad language.
- **Trust your gut feelings.** If a player starts talking to you and it's awkward or scary, tell a trusted adult.

Balance the Time

- **Being online all the time makes you boring and unhealthy.** So find some friends who like to do Minecraft and play Creeper Tag!

Wrap Your Mind Around Minecraft

Parent's intro to Minecraft	http://bit.ly/MScybersafetylady
A more complete guide	http://bit.ly/MCparentguide
Educational benefits of Minecraft	http://bit.ly/MCplaybook
Minecraft glossary for parents	http://bit.ly/MCglossary
Ten things parents need to know about Minecraft	http://bit.ly/MC10things
Ten problems that parents can have with Minecraft	http://bit.ly/MCparentproblems
Learn to play (video)	http://bit.ly/MCfirstnight

Kid-Friendly Servers for Desktop Play

Intercraften (most popular)	http://bit.ly/MCserverIC
Minesquish	http://bit.ly/MCserverMS
Sandlot (recommended)	http://bit.ly/MCserverSL