

## Fierce Freedom Online Safety Series – Online Gaming

### Video Game Facts

- More than eight-in-ten teens (84%) say they have a game console at home or have access to one.
- An overwhelming 92% of teen boys have access to a game console, compared with 75% of girls
- \$35.4 billion industry/year

### Discord

Why is it popular?

- 250 Million Active Users
- A place for gamers to chat while playing video games but has become a bigger platform where users can use text, voice-chat, and video-chat to discuss a wide variety of topics.

What do I need to know?

- Discord has had problems with hostile behavior and abuse within chats. This includes flooding with controversial topics including underage “furry” pornography and revenge porn.
- **36 percent** of daily users experienced harassment (physical, sexual or emotional) on Discord specifically.
- You’re technically supposed to be at least 13 to use the service, but Discord doesn’t check age when you sign up.

### Fortnite

Why is it popular?

- 250 Million Players
- *Fortnite* is a video game for PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, Windows, Mac, and mobile that takes elements from sandbox-building games and adds the fast-paced action of a third-person shooter.
- There are two modes to the game: a solo version called *Save the World* and the hugely popular multiplayer version called *Battle Royale*.

What do I need to know?

- Highly addictive, kids are being treated for Internet Gaming Disorder.
- Twitch channel has 124 million hours watched online in the last 30 days or 5,166,666.7 days.
- The game's online chat feature could expose younger players to offensive language or mature content from random strangers.
- Also sets unrealistic expectations for “professional gamers” or “eAthletes” when some studies show the chances of making a career of gaming or .01% or lower.

# SAFETY AT HOME

## Guidelines for Online Gaming Use

- Private chat groups limited to age appropriate/people they know personally.
- Set limits and stick to it – explain why
- Consider writing it out – develop a “contract” of your expectations, sign and date with your child.
- Connect with other parents – share concerns and ask that they respect your values.

## Questions or concerns?

- Message us on Facebook
- office@fiercefreesdom.org
- Website: [www.fiercefreesdom.org](http://www.fiercefreesdom.org)

Some material referenced from the following:

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/>

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<https://www.commonensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-fortnite#whatis>

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