# Parents' guide to live streaming and vlogging

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### Live streaming

## **Vlogging**

What is it?

What is the difference between Live streaming, Vlogging and Let's Play videos? Live streaming or 'Going live' is the broadcasting of live video on the internet from a specific location in real-time, like live TV. It differs from video chat services like Skype, as videos can be watched by many more people.

Vlogging involves publishing pre-recorded videos on social networks like YouTube on a regular basis. Both brands and individuals or YouTubers / Vloggers do this.

**Live streaming videos are live** and cannot be edited, **vlogs are pre-recorded** and edited before being posted and **Let's play videos feature screens shots of someone playing a game** with audio commentary and pre-recorded.

What age do children start?

> Why do children do it?

Between 8 – 9 years old with parental permission

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- To connect with family and followers It is a quick and easy way to share updates and special moments about their lives online
- To get immediate feedback With the comment functionality children are able to get immediate feedback on what they are sharing and communicate with a range of people
- To be more creative It allows them to be more creative and express themselves to a larger audience
- To build a following or a brand in light of 'Vlogging' becoming a career of choice, many children simply want to gain the same status as the most popular vloggers have achieved
- To experience the 'in the moment' thrill that anything can happen when 'going live'
- To be part of larger event You can watch live events and share comments with like-minded people
- To aspire to be more like their online heroes and attract interest on how their lives are developing











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Where do they do it?

### Most popular platforms being used:

YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat

Also being used but to a lesser extent:

Twitter, Music.ly, Twitch and Vimeo

What are the benefits?

- **Building confidence** Getting a sense of achievement as audience and engagement of content grows
- Connecting with like-minded people Being able to be less socially isolated by building
  bonds with people with similar interests
- Financial reward monetising on views and likes on channel



What are the risks?

- Exposure to inappropriate content
- Negative comments / cyberbullying
- Potential of 'Live Grooming'
- Sharing too much information
- Impact on self-esteem and behaviour

What do parents think? Most parents of those who don't already create livestreams would not permit their child to do so

Many parents are concerned about suitability of the content for children and the responses they may get from other people

## Five Practical tips to keep kids safe





- 1. Stay engaged with what they do online and with who
- 2. Use tools to help them manage what they see and share
- 3. Make them aware of reporting functions to flag people or content
- **4. Encourage them** to 'Go live' or record video in a public place to limit the personal information they share
- **5. Watch vlogs and live streams with younger children** to make sure they are age-appropriate and encourage older children to evaluate what they watch to make sure it has a positive impact on them