



# CRIME PREVENTION

## SAFE ONLINE GAMING GUIDE

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Army children face unique challenges with parents deploying and moving to numerous duty stations. This can mean military children spend more time online, and when that time is unsupervised, their exposure to criminal threats like grooming, cyberbullying, financial loss, and harmful content increases.

### THE PROBLEM IS REAL

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) received over **546,000 reports** of online enticement in 2024, a **192% increase** compared to reports in 2023. Knowing the dangers on these platforms can help parents protect their children.



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**546,000 REPORTS**  
OF ONLINE ENTICEMENT

Source: NCMEC, 2024 CyberTipline Data

### KNOW THE GAMING ECOSYSTEM

Children connect across many platforms. The highest risks often exist in games with user-created content and on the communication apps used by gaming communities.

- **Roblox:** A popular online gaming world where most of the content is made by other users.
- **Discord:** While popular with gamers, it's a communication platform where users create communities called 'servers' for a wide range of interests.

### KEY SAFETY ACTIONS

- **Link accounts:** Connect your parent account to your child's to monitor activity and set limits.
- **Use parental controls:** Manage who your child interacts with, what they see, and their friend requests. For instructions, visit [Roblox's Parent & Caregiver Guide](#)<sup>1</sup> and [Discord's Guardian's Guide](#).<sup>2</sup>
- Talk openly about online safety.
- Explain why children should never share personal information (full name, school, address). People online may not be who they say they are.
- **Financial loss:** Many games are designed to be addictive with in-game purchasing. Hackers phish gaming platforms to gain access to accounts. In-game 'currency' has cash value and attracts cyber criminals.<sup>3</sup>

### MORE RESOURCES & INFORMATION

- **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC):** The central reporting center for child exploitation in the U.S.
- **Internet Safety 101:** A comprehensive online safety resource for parents.
- **ESRB.org:** Provides guides for setting parental controls on most gaming devices.

### HOW TO REPORT ISSUES

- **Roblox:** Report problems directly from the game or a user's profile. Learn more at [How to Report Rule Violations](#).
- **Discord:** Report messages, user profiles, or entire servers that break the rules. Learn more at [Reporting Abusive Behavior to Discord](#).

**SUBMIT A TIP**  
Reporting is  
Anonymous

[https://www.cid.army.mil/  
Submit-a-Tip/](https://www.cid.army.mil/Submit-a-Tip/)



<sup>1</sup> <https://corp.roblox.com/resource/parent-caregiver-guide-to-roblox/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://discord.com/safety-parents>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.common sense media.org/kids-action/articles/cyber-threats-lurk-in-kids-gaming-what-parents-should-know>

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