



Safe on Social Grand Theft Auto Cheat Sheet

West Vinewood

Gamers in our sessions in Primary schools often point out that violent video games are often more challenging, faster paced, and more competitive than nonviolent video games, and this is why they like to play them.

Kids are continually shocked when we tell them that the majority of gamers are over the age of 36yrs. When they are playing against a stranger online, they don't know how old they are. No matter what the other gamer says their age is, kids need to be vigilant about not giving away personal information and knowing how to block and report.

We are continuing to see an extraordinary amount of Primary School age children using Grand Theft Auto, the violent bestselling video game with an R+ rating.

There are also some Primary School age children using Grand Theft Auto V which is an M-rated version also brimming with gang violence, nudity, extremely coarse language, and drug and alcohol abuse. None of the main characters in the game makes for a decent role model.

Also known as "GTA" it glorifies crime and violence. GTA lets a child watch such things as prostitutes performing sex acts; this prostitute can then be gruesomely murdered to take back any money they spent on engaging her services. The sound effects should be enough to make any parent cringe. Some reviews say that all the sexual content is avoidable. That is NOT TRUE.

Some of the material is avoidable, like the strip clubs which offers topless dancers or the fact that you can pick up prostitutes on the street and have intercourse with them in your car (it does show the scene with an option to skip). However, the game story does have sex scenes that bare all.

We see this more and more often being used by kids under the age of 12yrs. Many parents trust their child to stay away from the optional sexual content the game provides. However, we've all been kids and did you ever do something that your parents told you not to do? Please be cautious.

The violence towards women, in this game, is unacceptable and unavoidable. Search Grand Theft Auto on YouTube you can see for yourself. It won't be hard to find. We are not linking YouTube videos here for obvious reasons.

When kids spend hour upon hour using a game console to kill people, hire prostitutes, be violent towards women it starts to impact on what is ok and not ok in real life. There have been numerous studies that prove first-person violent video games do affect us, even if we don't realise it at the time.

Comments from fans of violent video games typically argue, "I've played hundreds of hours of violent video games and haven't hurt anyone!" However, this does not mean playing violent video games does not affect. Anyone who has ever felt excited, tense, or frustrated while playing a video game has been "affected" by them.

Reading the different review articles and individual studies about violent video games can seem a bit like watching a game of tennis between sets of findings and counter-findings.

Here are our recommendations for parents and carers of gamers:

1. Respect age restrictions – R Rating is 18+ for a reason. Read more on classifications here <http://www.classification.gov.au>
2. We highly recommend that you take 30mins out of your busy day and sit with your child and play any game they want to use and decide whether or not it is appropriate.
3. There are many age-specific games available, starting from as young as 9yrs when in restricted mode and with parental supervision.
4. Set healthy boundaries on time spent gaming.
5. Find out at a minimum how to help your child block and report.
6. Remind your child not to give out any personal information online and never to meet up with anyone they meet online.....offline.

What are the alternatives? There are lots of games that are more age appropriate, but ones with precisely the elements of GTA that are kid-friendly both vary based on platform and are also hard to find.

You've got games with strictly driving mechanics (Need for Speed, Forza, Test Drive, etc.), you've got straight sandbox (Minecraft, Terraria, Roblox)

Stealing cars, prostitutes, killing people and blowing stuff up is kind of hard to work into a kid-friendly game.

The following is a list of the more popular games we see in Primary Schools and their rating:

Fortnite – Rated PG - 13yrs+

This survival-action game is what you'd get if you combined a game like Minecraft with an action shooter like Call of Duty. On the one hand, it's getting significant points with kids and parents for building teamwork and thoughtful collaboration. On the other side, it's a combat-based game with tons of guns and violence.

Apex Legends – Rated MA – 15yrs +

Touted as the new Fortnite, teams of up to three compete in matches with up to 60 players to be the last team standing. Violence is persistent and more realistic and less cartoonish than what kids have experienced in Fortnite.

Grand Theft Auto V – Rated R+ - 18yrs+

Sex, violence, and drugs: This role-playing game includes over a dozen titles and is one of the most controversial series on the market. Its stories revolve around a criminal underworld (and players are cast in the role of gang members who must commit brutal crimes to rise through the ranks.

Overwatch – Rated PG – 13yrs+

Overwatch is an online multiplayer team-based first-person shooter. Two teams of six players fight against each other in many game types; while kids can play with people they know, it's also possible for them to play with strangers -- that, plus the unmoderated chat which means all bets are off in terms of what kids can hear.

League of legends – Rated MA 15yrs+

League of Legends is an online fantasy war game in which kids team up with strangers to challenge other teams in arena-based combat. The goal of the game is to kill opponents -- both the player characters as well as the computer-driven "minions" -- so there's a lot of blood and violence.

PubG – Rated R+ 18yrs+

Player Unknown's Battleground (PUBG). Up to 100 players compete in a last-man-standing, kill-or-be-killed fight for survival. Violence is core to the game; players are pitted against each other, armed with a variety of realistic weapons such as rifles, machine guns, and crowbars (which are all scattered around the map). While the controls are relatively easy to pick up, the game's difficulty lies in trying to survive while scavenging items from the map to use in battle. Although there isn't any swearing in the scripted dialogue, the in-game chat is frequently filled with obscenities and offensive conversations from other players (you can turn this off in the settings).

Call of Duty Black Ops II – Rated RMA 15yrs+

Call of Duty: Black Ops II is an extremely violent military first-person shooter set mostly in the near future. Players engage in realistic combat that involves constant killing using realistic weapons, with blood and gore pouring across the screen during more intense scenes. Sequences can be even more dramatic and graphic, with both soldiers and civilians dying in horrible ways. This game has frequent profanity and some sexual themes and drug use. Parents should also be aware that this game facilitates open voice communication.

Minecraft – PG – 8yrs+

Minecraft is a multiplatform sandbox adventure game. Players explore the world and use the building blocks of the game to customise that world to create nearly anything they can imagine. That also means other players can build whatever they can imagine as well, which could potentially lead to younger players coming across potentially offensive content while exploring random worlds online.

Roblox = PG - 8yrs+

Roblox is a game-creation website where users design and upload their games, as well as play other games in a multiplayer environment. Some of the gameplay is advanced, and many games include weapons. The site offers a safe-chat mode for those under 13, as well as a parent login that lets you oversee your child's use of the site. Moderation of content also seems to be hit or miss; while the company claims that it tries to prevent inappropriate comments, there are plenty of users that claim they've been exposed to inappropriate comments and requests from other users. Videos can also be found on YouTube of players assaulting other players' characters by hopping on top of them and making sexual comments.

There are in-game currency items called Robux that you can use to unlock additional items, but you can either earn these slowly or pay for additional cash with real money. Users can also sign up for a membership for extra content and can insert in-game ads into their created games, potentially making money from their ideas. Read the developers Privacy Policy for details on how your (or your kids') information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.




Please see <http://www.classification.gov.au/Public/Resources/Pages/Parents.aspx> for more information on classifications.

If you have any questions, please get in touch: wecanhelp@safeonsocial.com

Classification categories explained


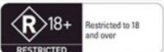
The advisory categories for films and computer games

The following three classification categories are advisory categories. This means there are no legal restrictions about viewing and/or playing these films and computer games with these markings.

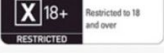
<p>General (G)</p> 	<p>The content is very mild in impact.</p> <p>The G classification is suitable for everyone. G products may contain classifiable elements such as language and themes that are very mild in impact. However, some G-classified films or computer games may contain content that is not of interest to children.</p>
<p>Parental Guidance (PG)</p> 	<p>The content is mild in impact.</p> <p>The impact of PG (Parental Guidance) classified films and computer games should be no higher than mild, but they may contain content that children find confusing or upsetting and may require the guidance or parents and guardians. They may, for example, contain classifiable elements such as language and themes that are mild in impact. It is not recommended for viewing or playing by persons under 15 without guidance from parents or guardians.</p>
<p>Mature (M)</p> 	<p>The content is moderate in impact.</p> <p>Films and computer games classified M (Mature) contain content of a moderate impact and are recommended for teenagers aged 15 years and over.</p> <p>Children under 15 may legally access this material because it is an advisory category. However, M classified films and computer games may include classifiable elements such as violence and nudity of moderate impact that are not recommended for children under 15 years.</p> <p>Parents and guardians may need to find out more about the film or computer game's specific content, before deciding whether the material is suitable for their child.</p>

The Restricted categories for films and computer games

The following classification categories are restricted categories. This means there are legal restrictions on viewing or playing these films and computer games.

<p>Mature Accompanied (MA 15+)</p> 	<p>The content is strong in impact.</p> <p>MA 15+ classified material contains strong content and is legally restricted to persons 15 years and over. It may contain classifiable elements such as sex scenes and drug use that are strong in impact. A person may be asked to show proof of their age before hiring or purchasing an MA 15+ film or computer game. Cinema staff may also request that the person show proof of their age before allowing them to watch an MA 15+ film. Children under the age of 15 may not legally watch, buy or hire MA 15+ classified material unless they are in the company of a parent or adult guardian. Children under 15 who go to the cinema to see an MA 15+ film must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian for the duration of the film. The parent or adult guardian must also purchase the movie ticket for the child.</p> <p>The guardian must be an adult exercising parental control over the person under 15 years of age. The guardian needs to be 18 years or older.</p>
<p>Restricted (R 18+)</p> 	<p>The content is high in impact.</p> <p>R 18+ classified material is restricted to adults. Such material may contain classifiable elements such as sex scenes and drug use that are high in impact. Some material classified R18+ may be offensive to sections of the adult community. A person may be asked for proof of their age before purchasing, hiring or viewing R18+ films and computer games at a retail store or cinema.</p>

The Restricted categories for adult films

<p>Restricted (X 18+)</p> 	<p>X 18+ films are restricted to adults. This classification is a special and legally restricted category which contains only sexually explicit content. That is, material which shows actual sexual intercourse and other sexual activity between consenting adults. X18+ films are only available for sale or hire in the ACT and the NT.</p>
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