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Roblox, Fortnite & Minecraft

A grandparent's guide to the games, the money, the chat and playing together — in plain English

A plain-English guide for grandparents and families

Take your time — you can't break it

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For Roblox, Fortnite & Minecraft · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your guide to the three games your grandchildren probably talk about most. Read it in any order and at your own pace. Part 1 explains what each game is; Parts 3 to 5 cover the money, spending limits and chat settings; Part 6 is about scams and safety; and Part 7 shows how a grandparent can join in and play. Menus change from time to time — if a screen looks a little different, the idea is still the same.

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PART 1

Getting to Know the Big Three

What Roblox, Fortnite and Minecraft actually are, in plain words, so the rest of this guide makes sense. Start here.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you've heard the words **Roblox**, **Fortnite** and **Minecraft** at the dinner table and nodded along without being quite sure what they mean, you're in good company. These three games are where a great many children spend their free time — on the console you bought them, on a tablet, or on a phone. This guide is for the grown-ups who love those children.

I'm Bill. Helping folks feel at home with their technology is what I do every day, and I wrote this guide the way I'd explain it sitting next to you at the kitchen table: patiently, in plain English, with no gamer slang. When a word like "Robux" or "skin" comes up, I'll stop and explain it.

You can't break anything by looking

Opening a settings page, reading a parental controls screen or watching a grandchild play won't delete anything or spend a penny. The settings that matter most — spending limits and chat — are built so that a grown-up has to confirm before anything changes. Take your time.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this matters

When you understand what these games are and where the money and chat settings live, you can say "yes" to the games with confidence, keep surprise charges off the credit card, and — best of all — join in. Few things delight a child more than a grandparent who asks, "Will you show me how to play?"

What this guide covers

- What each game is, who it's meant for, and what the age ratings mean.
- The money: **Robux**, **V-Bucks**, **Minecoins**, subscriptions and gift cards.
- Setting **spending limits** and **chat controls** in Roblox, Epic Games (Fortnite) and Minecraft.
- The new **age checks** Roblox now requires before anyone can chat.
- Scams aimed at children — "free Robux," account "trades" and fake log-in pages.
- How a grandparent can actually **play together** with a grandchild, safely.
- Screen time that doesn't turn into a nightly argument.

GOOD TO KNOW

The parents have the final say

Most of the controls in this guide are set by a **parent's** account. If you're a grandparent, the best approach is to read along, then sit down with the parents and set things up together. You'll find a few places where a grandparent's own account helps, too — especially for playing together.

And I'm only a phone call away

If you get stuck — an account won't link, a charge you don't recognize shows up, or you'd simply like a patient person to set it all up — call me at **(330) 200-8042**. There's no such thing as a silly question.

So pour a cup of coffee, and let's find out what all the fuss is about.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

Three Games, Three Very Different Things

Roblox, Fortnite and Minecraft get mentioned in the same breath, but they're quite different. One is a huge collection of games made by other players, one is a famous action game with several gentler modes, and one is a building game often compared to digital LEGO. Here they are side by side.

At a glance

	Roblox	Fortnite	Minecraft
What it is	A platform full of games ("experiences") made by users	An Epic Games title with battle, building, LEGO and racing modes	An open world of blocks to build, explore and survive in
Made by	Roblox Corporation	Epic Games	Mojang Studios (owned by Microsoft)
ESRB rating	T (Teen)	T (Teen); LEGO Fortnite is E10+	E10+ (Everyone 10+)
Cost to start	Free	Free	Paid game
In-game money	Robux	V-Bucks	Minecoins (Bedrock only)
Who controls the settings	Roblox parent account	Epic Games parental controls	Microsoft / Xbox family settings

GOOD TO KNOW

"Free" doesn't mean it costs nothing

Roblox and Fortnite are free to download and play. They make their money by selling extras — outfits, dances, special items and passes — paid for with their own play money. That's why the spending chapters in Part 3 and Part 4 matter so much.

Words you'll hear the grandkids use

Word	What it means
Experience	Roblox's word for one game inside Roblox. There are millions of them.
Skin	An outfit or look for a player's character. Mostly bought with Robux or V-Bucks.
Emote	A dance or gesture a character can do. Also bought.
Battle Pass	A Fortnite season pass that unlocks rewards as you play.
Server	A computer somewhere that hosts an online game other people join.
Realm	A private Minecraft world, rented by the month, that invited friends can join.
Mod	A home-made add-on that changes a game, popular in Minecraft on computers.
Noob	A friendly (or teasing) word for a beginner. That's us, for now.

FROM BILL

Ask them to teach you

The fastest way to learn any of these games is to ask a grandchild to give you a tour. Children love being the expert, and you'll learn more in ten minutes of watching than an hour of reading. Then come back here for the grown-up settings.

CHAPTER 3

Roblox in Plain Words

Roblox isn't one game. It's more like a giant shopping mall of games, each built by someone else — sometimes a big studio, sometimes a teenager in a bedroom. Roblox calls each of these games an **experience**. A child might spend the afternoon running an imaginary pet shop, playing hide and seek, racing cars and building an obstacle course, all without leaving Roblox.

Why children love it

- There's always something new — the variety is nearly endless.
- Friends from school can meet up in the same experience and play together.
- Players dress up their character, called an **avatar**, and show it off.
- Some children learn to build their own experiences with Roblox's free creation tools.

Why grown-ups should pay attention

- Because anyone can make an experience, quality and content vary a lot. Roblox rates each experience and lets parents block specific ones (Chapter 14).
- Players meet other players. Chat is now limited by age and requires an age check (Chapter 13).
- Avatar items and in-experience extras cost **Robux**, bought with real money (Chapter 8).

Roblox accounts are now sorted by age

Since June 2026, Roblox gives younger players age-based accounts. **Roblox Kids** is for ages 5 to 8, and **Roblox Select** is for ages 9 to 15. Each shows age-appropriate experiences and has its own default settings. Children move from Kids to Select at 9, and to a standard account at 16. Exact ages and features can vary by country.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A young child's Roblox account now starts out more protected, before you change a single setting. Your job is mostly to link a parent account and fine-tune — not to build every wall from scratch.

Where Roblox runs

Roblox works on phones, tablets, computers, Xbox, PlayStation and some VR headsets. The same account follows the child from one device to another, along with their Robux and avatar.

CHAPTER 4

Fortnite in Plain Words

Fortnite, made by **Epic Games**, is best known for its **Battle Royale** mode: up to a hundred players drop onto an island and the last one standing wins. The look is bright and cartoonish rather than gory, but it is a shooting game, which is why it's rated **T for Teen**.

Fortnite is really several games in one

Mode	What it is
Battle Royale	The famous last-player-standing mode, with building and cartoon weapons.
LEGO Fortnite	A gentler building-and-survival world with LEGO-style characters. Rated E10+ by the ESRB.
Creative & player-made islands	Islands built by other players and companies, a bit like Roblox experiences. Their ratings range from E to T.
Racing and music modes	Driving and rhythm games that live inside Fortnite.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ratings can vary inside one game

Because Fortnite holds many kinds of play, the ESRB notes that individual experiences inside it carry their own ratings. A seven-year-old building in LEGO Fortnite is in a very different place from a teenager in Battle Royale. Epic's parental controls let you limit which ratings are allowed (Chapter 15).

Where Fortnite runs

Fortnite plays on PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo Switch, computers and some phones and tablets. Progress and purchases are tied to the child's **Epic Games account**, so they carry across devices.

HEADS UP

Two places money can be spent

V-Bucks can be bought through Epic directly, or through the console's own store (PlayStation, Xbox or Nintendo). Epic's purchase PIN only covers Epic's own payment system — console purchases are controlled by the console's parental settings. Chapter 18 covers that.

CHAPTER 5

Minecraft in Plain Words

Minecraft is a world made of blocks. Players dig, gather materials and build anything they can imagine — a cottage, a castle, a working railroad. In **Survival** mode they also have to find food and stay safe from cartoon monsters at night. In **Creative** mode they have unlimited blocks and nothing to fear. It's rated **E10+**, for fantasy violence.

Java or Bedrock — the question that confuses everyone

There are two versions of Minecraft, and they **can't play with each other**. Before buying Minecraft as a gift, find out which one the child's friends use.

	Java Edition	Bedrock Edition
Runs on	Computers only (Windows, Mac, Linux)	Consoles, phones, tablets and Windows PCs
Plays with	Other Java players	Bedrock players on any device
Extras	Home-made mods and community servers	Add-ons and the official Marketplace
Controller	No built-in controller support	Controller and touch support
Private world service	Realms for Java	Realms and Realms Plus

TIP

On a computer, you get both

Minecraft for PC is sold as **Minecraft: Java & Bedrock Edition**, so a computer player can use either. On a console, phone or tablet, it's Bedrock.

What a Realm is

A **Realm** is a private Minecraft world kept running on Minecraft's own computers. The person who pays for it invites friends, and only those friends can come in — even when the owner is offline. For families, it's one of the safest ways to play Minecraft online. Prices are in Chapter 9.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A family Realm gives cousins in different towns — and grandparents — one shared world where everyone invited is someone you know. No strangers, no public servers.

PART 2

Ages, Ratings & Accounts

What the letters on the box mean, each company's own age rules, and whose account holds the keys.

CHAPTER 6

Age Ratings & Each Company's Age Rules

Two different things decide what a child can do in these games. The first is the **ESRB rating**, an independent rating printed on the box or store page. The second is each company's **own age rules**, built into the child's account. They work together, and it helps to know both.

The ESRB letters

Rating	What it means
E — Everyone	Suitable for all ages.
E10+ — Everyone 10+	Generally fine for ages 10 and up. May have more cartoon or fantasy violence, mild language or minimal suggestive themes.
T — Teen	Generally for ages 13 and up.
M — Mature 17+	Intended for adults. None of our three games is rated M.

How our three games are rated

Game	ESRB rating	Notes on the rating
Roblox	T (Teen)	Diverse Content: Discretion Advised. Users Interact. In-Game Purchases (Includes Random Items).
Fortnite	T (Teen)	Diverse Content: Discretion Advised. Experiences inside range from E to T.
LEGO Fortnite	E10+	The gentler LEGO building mode inside Fortnite.
Minecraft	E10+	Fantasy Violence. Users Interact. In-Game Purchases.

GOOD TO KNOW

"Diverse Content: Discretion Advised"

This newer ESRB note appears on games that are really platforms for content made by many different people. It means the ESRB can't rate every single experience inside, so parents should use the game's own controls to decide what's allowed.

Each company's own age rules

Company	Built-in age rules
Roblox	Accounts are grouped by age: **Roblox Kids** (5–8), **Roblox Select** (9–15) and standard accounts (16 and up). Chat requires an age check. Many parental controls, including spending limits and screen time, apply until a child turns 13.
Epic Games (Fortnite)	Players under 13 (or the local age of digital consent) start in a **cabined account** with chat and purchases switched off until a parent gives consent.
Minecraft (Microsoft)	A child's Microsoft account must be linked to an adult's. Online multiplayer and chat are off until the parent turns them on.

FROM BILL

Ratings are a starting point, not a verdict

A rating tells you what's typical. You know the child. Some eight-year-olds are perfectly happy in LEGO Fortnite with a parent nearby; some twelve-year-olds aren't ready for chatting with strangers. Use the ratings to start the conversation with the parents, then use the controls to match the child.

HEADS UP

Be honest about the birthday

Every one of these companies sets protections based on the birth date entered on the account. A child who fibs about their age to "unlock" features also switches off the protections meant for them. When you help set up an account, enter the real birth date.

CHAPTER 7

Accounts: Who Holds the Keys

Each game has its own account, and each company has its own way of letting a parent watch over a child's account. It's worth getting straight which account is which before you start changing settings.

The three grown-up accounts

Game	Child's account	Grown-up's role	Where the controls live
Roblox	Roblox account	A parent's own Roblox account, **linked** to the child's	Roblox app or roblox.com > Settings > Parental Controls
Fortnite	Epic Games account	A parent's email and a six-digit **PIN**	Epic account > Parental Controls
Minecraft	Microsoft account	An adult Microsoft account as family **organizer**	account.xbox.com/settings or the Xbox Family Settings app

Roblox: a parent account, linked

On Roblox, the parent creates their **own** Roblox account and links it to the child's. Roblox asks the parent to verify they're an adult — with an ID or a credit card — before linking. Once linked, the parent manages spending, chat, screen time and blocked experiences from their own phone or computer. Step-by-step directions are in Chapter 11.

Epic Games: a parent email and a PIN

For Fortnite, the parent doesn't need to play. When a young child signs up, Epic asks for a parent's email address and sends a consent request. The parent verifies they're an adult and sets a **six-digit PIN** that locks the parental controls. Chapter 15 has the details.

Minecraft: a Microsoft family

Minecraft uses Microsoft accounts. A child's Microsoft account can't exist without an adult account tied to it. The adult — the family **organizer** — sets online play and chat at **account.xbox.com/settings** or in the free **Xbox Family Settings** app on a phone. These settings follow the child's Microsoft account, so they matter even if the child doesn't own an Xbox. Chapter 17 walks through it.

TIP

Write the account emails down once

Grandkids often have three or four game accounts. Ask the parents to note each account's email and user name in the cheat-sheet in Chapter 25 — kept somewhere private. It saves a world of trouble when a password is forgotten or an account is locked.

STAY SAFE

Grown-up passwords stay grown-up

Never share the parent's Roblox password, Epic PIN or Microsoft password with a child, even "just this once." Those are the keys to the spending and chat settings. If a child needs something unlocked, the grown-up types it in.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Once the right grown-up account is in charge of each game, you can change a setting in a minute from your own phone — no need to wrestle the tablet away from a child mid-game.

PART 3

The Money

Play money, subscriptions and gift cards — what they are, what they cost, and how to give them without regret.

CHAPTER 8

Robux, V-Bucks & Minecoins Explained

Each game has its own play money. Children buy it with real dollars (or a gift card), then spend it inside the game on outfits, dances, pets, special items and passes. Because the price is shown in play money, not dollars, it's easy for a child — or anyone — to lose track of what's really being spent.

The three currencies

Currency	Game	What children buy with it	How it's bought
Robux	Roblox	Avatar clothes and accessories, items and passes inside experiences	Roblox app or website, console stores, Roblox gift cards
V-Bucks	Fortnite	Outfits ("skins"), emotes, the Battle Pass	Epic, console stores, V-Bucks or Fortnite gift cards
Minecoins	Minecraft (Bedrock)	Skin packs, texture packs, worlds and adventures in the Marketplace	Minecraft store, Minecraft gift cards

What they cost

Prices change and vary by country and by device, so the honest answer is: look at the price in the store before you pay — it's always shown in dollars at the checkout. As of November 2026, the smallest packs of Robux and V-Bucks cost a few dollars, and the bigger packs cost many times that. Epic raised V-Bucks prices in March 2026, so a pack now holds fewer V-Bucks than it used to.

GOOD TO KNOW

Minecoins are Bedrock only

Minecoins and the Minecraft Marketplace work only in Bedrock Edition. They don't work in Minecraft: Java Edition. And because a child's Microsoft account has no payment method of its own, Minecraft says parents should make Marketplace purchases with their own account.

"Random" items and loot boxes

The ESRB notes that Roblox includes **In-Game Purchases (Includes Random Items)**. That means some experiences sell mystery boxes, eggs or spins where the child pays first and finds out later what they got. Children can spend a lot chasing a rare prize. It's worth a gentle conversation, and a spending limit (Chapter 12).

TIP

Translate play money into dollars together

Sit down with a grandchild and work out what one favorite item cost in real money. "That pet cost about the same as a movie ticket" lands better than "that's too expensive." It's a sneaky little math lesson, too.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing what the play money is — and that every game lets a parent cap or approve spending — turns a scary credit card statement into a simple allowance you control.

CHAPTER 9

Subscriptions: Roblox Plus, Fortnite Crew & Realms

Each company also sells a monthly membership. These renew automatically until someone cancels, so they're the charges most likely to keep appearing quietly on a card. Here's what each one is, as of November 2026.

Roblox Plus (and the old Roblox Premium)

In April 2026 Roblox introduced **Roblox Plus**, a monthly subscription for **$4.99** a month, and stopped selling **Roblox Premium** to new members. Families who already had Premium can keep it. Plus offers discounts and perks inside Roblox rather than a monthly pile of Robux.

Fortnite Crew

Fortnite Crew is Epic's monthly membership, widely reported at **$11.99** a month in the U.S. as of November 2026. It includes the season's Battle Pass and other passes, a monthly outfit pack and a monthly allowance of V-Bucks (Epic reduced that allowance from 1,000 to 800 V-Bucks in June 2026). Check the price on the subscription screen before you agree.

Minecraft Realms

Plan	Price (U.S., per month)	Players at once
Realms for Bedrock	$3.99	You plus 2 others
Realms Plus (Bedrock)	$7.99	You plus 10 others, with Marketplace content included
Realms for Java	$7.99	You plus 10 others

- Only the owner pays. Invited friends and family don't need their own subscription.
- A 30-day free trial is offered, and the subscription renews automatically unless canceled.
- Minecraft also lists a larger **Realms Pro** plan for bigger groups. Check minecraft.net for its price.

HEADS UP

Free trials turn into paid plans

A free trial needs a card on file and becomes a paid subscription when it ends. If you start one, put a reminder on your calendar a few days before the trial ends and decide on purpose.

FROM BILL

Which is worth it?

For many families, a Minecraft Realm is the subscription that earns its keep — it gives the family a private, invite-only world. Fortnite Crew and Roblox Plus are mostly about extras. If a child asks for one, it's a perfectly fair birthday present — just know it renews.

How to see and cancel subscriptions

Subscriptions are canceled where they were bought. If a child signed up through an iPhone, it's canceled in the iPhone's subscription settings; through a PlayStation, Xbox or Nintendo Switch, in that console's account; through Roblox, Epic or Minecraft directly, in that account. A quick look at the email receipts usually tells you where it came from. The **Apple Screen Time & Family Sharing** manual covers the iPhone side.

CHAPTER 10

Gift Cards the Safe Way

Gift cards are a wonderful way to give play money: a set amount, no credit card on file, and a child can't spend more than the card holds. Roblox, Fortnite (V-Bucks) and Minecraft all sell them at ordinary stores. A little care keeps the gift safe.

Buying a game gift card

1. Buy it from a **real store** you know — the checkout lane at the grocery, a big-box store, or the game company's own website. Avoid auction sites and "discount code" websites.
2. Check the package. Don't buy a card whose packaging looks opened, torn or re-sealed, and don't buy one where the PIN area has already been scratched.
3. Keep the receipt until the card has been used.
4. Give the card to the parent, or redeem it together with the child.

Redeeming it

- **Roblox:** on the Roblox website or app, go to the gift card redemption page while signed in to the child's account and enter the PIN.
- **Fortnite:** V-Bucks cards are redeemed on Epic's website while signed in to the child's Epic account.
- **Minecraft:** codes and gift cards are redeemed at **minecraft.net/redeem**.

GOOD TO KNOW

Roblox spending limits and gift cards

Roblox's monthly spending limit doesn't block gift card redemption. That's by design: a gift card is already a fixed amount the family chose.

SCAM ALERT

Nobody legitimate asks to be paid in gift cards

If anyone — a caller, a text, a pop-up, a "friend" in a game — asks you or a grandchild to buy Robux, V-Bucks or any other gift card and read them the numbers, it's a scam. Every time. Game gift cards are for spending in the game, never for paying a person, a fine or a "support" fee.

SCAM ALERT

"Free Robux" and "free V-Bucks" sites are traps

No website, video or app can give away free Robux, V-Bucks or Minecoins. Those offers exist to steal the child's password, install something harmful or collect personal details. Chapter 20 explains how to talk about it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A gift card from a real store is the simplest, safest way to say "here's some fun money" — with a built-in limit and nothing left on the family card.

PART 4

Roblox Parental Controls

Link a parent account, cap the spending, set chat to match the child's age, and choose how long and where they can play.

CHAPTER 11

Link a Parent Account to Roblox

Almost every Roblox control starts with one step: linking a parent's Roblox account to the child's. After that, the parent manages everything from their **own** phone or computer. It takes about ten minutes, and it's the single most useful thing you can do on Roblox.

What you need

- The child's Roblox user name and password (or the child, signed in, sitting with you).
- An email address for the parent.
- A way for the parent to prove they're an adult — Roblox asks for a **government ID** or a **credit card** during setup.

Linking, step by step

1. If the parent doesn't have one yet, create a free Roblox account for the parent on the parent's own phone or computer, with the parent's real birth date.
2. On the child's device, signed in to the **child's** account, open **Settings** and choose **Parental Controls**.
3. Tap **Add parent** and type the email address tied to the parent's Roblox account.
4. The parent opens the email from Roblox and follows the link.
5. Roblox asks the parent to verify they're an adult, using an ID or a credit card. Follow the prompts.
6. When it's done, the parent opens **Settings** > **Parental Controls** on their own account and sees the child listed there.

> **TIP**
>
> **Don't want a Roblox account of your own?**
>
> Roblox also offers a **Parent mode** on the child's own device, without a separate parent account. It's handy for a quick change, but a linked parent account is needed for spending limits and spending notifications, and it lets you check in from anywhere. Most families are better off linking.

GOOD TO KNOW

Decide together who gets linked

Whoever's account is linked can change spending, chat and screen time. Usually that's a parent. If you're a grandparent who has the children often, talk with the parents about who should hold the controls before anyone sends a link request.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Once linked, you don't have to take the tablet away to change a rule. You can raise a time limit, approve a friend or check spending from your own phone, even from another state.

CHAPTER 12

Set a Roblox Spending Limit

A **monthly spending limit** caps how much real money can be spent on Robux in a calendar month. It's the setting that keeps a Roblox habit from becoming a credit card surprise.

Setting the limit

1. On the parent's linked account, open **Settings** and choose **Parental Controls**.
2. Choose the child's account.
3. Scroll down to **Settings you manage**.
4. Choose **Spending restrictions**.
5. Enter a monthly limit. You can enter any amount, **including zero** to block purchases entirely. The default is **No limit**.
6. Save. Roblox may ask the parent to confirm.

How the limit behaves

- It resets at the end of each calendar month. Unused amounts don't roll over.
- It does **not** stop gift card redemption — a gift card is already a fixed amount.
- It doesn't cover Robux bought through an **Xbox**. Use the console's own controls for that (Chapter 18).
- Spending limits stop applying when the child turns **13**. Spending notifications can continue.

Spending notifications

Separately from the limit, the linked parent can get an email when the child spends. Under **Settings you manage**, choose the spending notification setting and pick one:

Option	What you get
All transactions	An email every time Robux are bought.
High spend alerts	An email only for larger purchases.
None	No spending emails.

TIP

Zero plus gift cards is a tidy allowance

Many families set the monthly limit to **zero** and give Roblox gift cards for birthdays and good report cards. The child gets a fixed amount to spend, and nothing comes off the family card.

HEADS UP

Check the payment method on file

If a card was saved on the child's Roblox account or on the device's app store, purchases may be easy to make. The spending limit is the backstop, but it's also worth removing saved cards the child doesn't need.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A spending limit plus an email for every purchase means no Robux surprises — and a natural moment to ask, "What did you buy? Show me!"

CHAPTER 13

Roblox Chat, Age Checks & Trusted Friends

Chat is where most worries about Roblox begin, and it's where Roblox has made the biggest changes. Since January 2026, **nobody** can use chat on Roblox without first completing an age check, and chat is limited to people of similar ages unless they're Trusted Friends.

How the age check works

- **Facial Age Estimation:** the Roblox app uses the device's camera to take a short selfie and estimate the person's age range. It doesn't identify who the person is. Roblox says the images and video are deleted right after processing.
- **ID verification** is an alternative for people 13 and older.
- To start, open **Settings** > **Account Info**, find **Age Group**, and choose **Continue with selfie**.
- In some places, a parent's consent is needed before a child can do the age check.

Who can chat with whom

- After the check, people are placed in age groups and can chat only with nearby age groups. Adults and young children can't chat freely with each other.
- **Under 9:** chat is off by default. A parent can allow in-experience chat through Parental Controls.
- **Under 16:** private one-to-one chat ("direct chat") needs a parent's consent.
- **Trusted Friends** are a child's inner circle — real-life friends and family — who can chat beyond the age groups. A child under 13 can add a Trusted Friend only if the parent approves the request in Parental Controls.

Turn off chat with strangers

1. On the parent's linked account, open **Settings** > **Parental Controls** and choose the child.
2. Under **Settings you manage**, look for the chat or communication settings.
3. Turn off chat entirely, or limit it to people the child knows (friends and Trusted Friends).
4. Review the child's **friends list** from the same screen, and block anyone you don't recognize.

GOOD TO KNOW

The words changed in 2026

Roblox called friends "Connections" for a while and Trusted Friends "Trusted Connections." In April 2026 it went back to **Friends** and **Trusted Friends**. If a grandchild or an older article uses the old words, they mean the same thing.

STAY SAFE

The rule that matters most

Teach children: if anyone in a game asks to move the conversation somewhere else — another app, a phone number, a video call — or asks for pictures or secrets, tell a grown-up right away. The settings help a lot, but that rule protects children everywhere.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With age checks and Trusted Friends, the people chatting with a young child are, by default, other children of similar age and the family members you've approved.

CHAPTER 14

Roblox Screen Time & Blocking Experiences

From the same Parental Controls screen, a linked parent can set a daily time limit and block particular experiences.

A daily screen-time limit

1. Open **Settings** > **Parental Controls** and choose the child.
2. Under **Settings you manage**, find the screen time setting.
3. Choose a daily limit. It's set in 15-minute steps, or **No limit**.
4. When the limit is reached, the child sees a message and can't use Roblox for the rest of the day.

The same area shows which experiences the child plays most — a great conversation starter. From age 13, children manage their own screen time limits.

Block a particular experience

1. In the child's Parental Controls, open **Content restrictions**.
2. Search for the experience and block it. You can block any experience, whatever its maturity label.
3. A blocked experience still appears in search, but the child can't join it.
4. If the child is playing it right now, the block takes effect the next time they try to join.

TIP

Approving one game outside the usual range

With Roblox Kids and Roblox Select accounts, parents can also **approve** a specific game that falls outside the account's default content rating — handy when the whole family has looked at it and agrees it's fine.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Instead of banning Roblox outright, you can say yes to the experiences you're comfortable with and no to the few you're not — and let the timer, not you, be the one to say "time's up."

PART 5

Fortnite, Minecraft & the Device Itself

Epic Games parental controls for Fortnite, Microsoft's family settings for Minecraft, and the controls on the console, phone or tablet underneath it all.

CHAPTER 15

Fortnite Parental Controls & the Epic PIN

Fortnite's controls live in the child's **Epic Games account**, protected by a **six-digit PIN** that only the parent knows. Young players also start with extra protection built in.

Cabined accounts for children under 13

When a player says they're under 13 (or under the age of digital consent where they live, if that's higher), Epic creates a **cabined account**. The child can still play Fortnite and other Epic games, but several things stay switched off until a parent gives consent:

- Voice chat and free-text chat.
- Real-money purchases (including renewing a Fortnite Crew membership through Epic).
- Custom display names, and signing in to other services with the Epic account.
- Recommendations based on past activity, marketing emails and push notifications.

Giving consent, and setting up controls

1. Epic sends an email to the parent address the child entered. Open it and follow the link.
2. Verify that you're an adult. Epic accepts a credit or debit card, a Social Security number (U.S. only), or a face scan or ID scan.
3. Choose the settings you're comfortable with: chat, which content ratings are allowed, and friend controls.
4. Create the **six-digit Parental Controls PIN**. Keep it private.
5. Later, to change anything, sign in to the child's Epic account on the web, open **Parental Controls**, and enter the PIN.

HEADS UP

Answer the consent email within two weeks

If the parent doesn't respond, Epic deletes the parent email after 14 days, and the account stays cabined. Nothing bad happens to the child's games — the features just stay off — but you'll have to start the request again.

Purchases and the PIN

- You can require the PIN before any real-money purchase made through **Epic's own payment system**.
- Players under 13 also have a **$100 daily spending limit** on Epic payments. Going over it needs the PIN.
- These Epic settings do **not** cover purchases made through PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo Switch or Steam, and they don't cover spending V-Bucks the child already has.

GOOD TO KNOW

The PIN can't be deleted

Once a PIN is set, it stays. If you ever want to relax things, you can turn the restrictions off — but the PIN remains as a lock. Write it on the cheat-sheet in Chapter 25 and keep it private.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With the PIN in place, a young child can enjoy Fortnite's free modes without any way to buy things, chat with strangers or change the rules on their own.

CHAPTER 16

Fortnite Chat, Friends & Time Limits

Once the parent has the PIN, these are the settings families use most.

Voice and text chat

For voice chat and text chat, choose who the child may talk with:

Setting	Who can talk with the child
Everybody	Anyone in the match. Not available for younger children.
Friends and Teammates	Epic friends plus the people on the child's team in a match.
Friends Only	Only people on the child's Epic friends list. The highest setting for under-10s.
Nobody	Chat is off.

For players under 13, the most open choice Epic allows is friends, team members and connections. **Everybody** isn't available to them.

Friend requests

Turn on the setting that **requires the PIN for friend requests**. Then every time the child tries to send or accept an Epic friend request, a grown-up has to type the PIN — a perfect moment to ask "Who's this?"

Time limits and Time Reports

- Set a **daily play time** for Fortnite and choose the hours of the day it's allowed.
- Since a September 2026 update, a **separate limit** can apply to time spent creating islands.
- The child gets an in-game warning when **30 minutes** are left.
- The limit follows the account, so switching from the console to a tablet doesn't reset it.
- **Time Reports** show a daily breakdown for up to four weeks, and parents can sign up for a weekly email.

TIP

Friends Only plus PIN for friend requests

For most younger children, the combination of **Friends Only** chat and **PIN required for friend requests** means the only voices in the headset belong to people a parent has approved.

STAY SAFE

Teach the mute button

Every online game has a way to mute or block another player. Ask the child to show you where it is. Knowing they can silence someone unkind — and then tell you — is empowering.

CHAPTER 17

Minecraft Controls with Xbox Family Settings

Minecraft uses Microsoft accounts, so its online controls are Microsoft's family settings. They're managed at **account.xbox.com/settings** on a computer, or in the free **Xbox Family Settings** app on an iPhone or Android phone. Only the adult organizer can change them.

Out of the box, a child account is locked down

Until a parent changes the setting, a child account **can't** join other players' worlds, Realms or servers, and can't chat with other players online. The child can still play on their own.

Letting a child play online with friends

1. Sign in to **account.xbox.com/settings** with the adult account (or open the Xbox Family Settings app).
2. Choose the child's account.
3. Under the online safety settings, set **You can join multiplayer games** to **Allow**.
4. Under privacy, find **Others can communicate with voice, text, or invites** and choose **Friends**. (Microsoft suggests Friends as a good starting point.)
5. Save your changes. The child may need to sign out of Minecraft and back in.

GOOD TO KNOW

Play together without chat

If you choose **Block** for communication, the child can still join multiplayer games — they just won't see chat messages from others or receive invites. That's a gentle middle ground for younger children.

Inside the game

In Minecraft, a player can hide all messages from a particular player, and report abusive messages. Show the child where these are, so they know they're never stuck with someone unkind.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A family Realm plus **Friends**-only communication gives a child the fun of playing online with cousins and classmates, without public servers full of strangers.

CHAPTER 18

Console, Phone & Tablet Controls

Under each game sits the device it runs on, and every device has its own parental controls. These matter because some purchases go through the **device's** store, not the game company — and the game's own spending settings can't see them.

Where to look on each device

Device	Where the controls are
iPhone or iPad	Apple's **Screen Time** and **Ask to Buy** in Family Sharing. See the **Apple Screen Time & Family Sharing** manual.
Nintendo Switch	The free Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app plus spending restrictions in the Nintendo Account. See the **Nintendo Switch** manual.
PlayStation 5	Family management in the PlayStation account, with monthly spending limits. See the **PlayStation 5** manual.
Xbox	The same Xbox Family Settings app used for Minecraft (Chapter 17) also manages the console.
Android phone or tablet	Google Play's parental controls and Google Family Link.

HEADS UP

Two locks are better than one

Roblox's spending limit doesn't cover Robux bought through an Xbox, and Epic's PIN doesn't cover V-Bucks bought through a PlayStation, Xbox or Switch. Turn on purchase approval or spending limits on the **device** too, so no store is left unlocked.

TIP

Saved cards are the usual culprit

Surprise charges usually come from a card saved in a phone's app store or a console account. Removing saved cards a child can reach, or requiring a password for every purchase, closes most of the gaps.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Setting the device and the game together means the rules hold no matter which button a child presses or which store they wander into.

PART 6

Staying Safe Online

Easy conversations about online safety, the scams aimed squarely at children, and what to do if something goes wrong.

CHAPTER 19

Talking with Grandkids About Online Safety

Settings help, but the best protection a child has is a grown-up they can tell anything to without getting in trouble. Grandparents are often perfect for this: a little removed from the daily rules, and with all the time in the world to listen.

Start with curiosity, not warnings

- "What's your favorite game right now? Will you show me?"
- "Who do you usually play with?"
- "What's the funniest thing that's happened in a game?"
- "Has anyone ever been mean to you in a game? What did you do?"

Asking about the fun parts first makes it natural to ask about the harder parts later. Children are much more likely to mention a problem to someone who already knows the names of their games.

Five simple rules to share

1. **Keep your password secret** — from friends, from "helpers," from everyone except your parents.
2. **Real names, schools and addresses stay private.** So do photos of yourself.
3. **Nothing is free.** Anyone offering free Robux or V-Bucks is trying to trick you.
4. **If someone asks to talk somewhere else** — another app, a phone number, a video call — tell a grown-up.
5. **You will never be in trouble for telling.** Even if you clicked something you shouldn't have.

FROM BILL

That last rule is the important one

A child who's afraid of losing the tablet will hide a problem. A child who knows the grown-ups will help, not punish, will tell you early — when things are easiest to fix. Say it out loud, and mean it.

Signs worth a gentle question

- Suddenly secretive about a game, or quickly switching screens when you walk in.
- New "friends" you've never heard of, especially older ones.
- Gifts of Robux, V-Bucks or items from someone they met online.
- Upset or withdrawn after playing.

STAY SAFE

If something serious happens

If an adult has asked a child for pictures, tried to arrange a meeting, or threatened them, save what you can (a photo of the screen with your phone works), don't confront the person, and report it to the game company and to local law enforcement. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline (report.cybertip.org) also takes reports.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A child who talks to you about their games is a child you can actually help — and you get to share in something they love.

CHAPTER 20

Scams Aimed at Kids: Free Robux & Fake Trades

Children are targeted by scammers because they want game items badly and don't yet know the tricks. Almost every gaming scam comes down to one goal: get the child's **password**, the family's **card**, or **gift card numbers**. Here are the ones to know.

The common tricks

The scam	How it works
"Free Robux" / "free V-Bucks"	Websites, videos and pop-ups promising free currency. They ask for the child's user name and password, or to download something, or to "verify" by completing offers. Free currency generators don't exist.
Fake log-in pages	A link that looks like the Roblox, Epic or Minecraft sign-in page but isn't. Typing the password there hands over the account.
"Trade" and "middleman" scams	Someone offers to trade rare items, then asks the child to go first or to give their password to a "middleman." The items vanish.
"Your account will be banned"	A message pretending to be the game company, demanding the password or a payment to avoid a ban.
Selling accounts	Offers to buy or sell accounts "with rare skins." Against the rules, and a common way to lose money and the account.
Gift card requests	Anyone asking for gift card numbers — for a prize, a fee, or a "favor."

SCAM ALERT

Free Robux is a scam

There is no such thing as free Robux, free V-Bucks or free Minecoins from a website, video, app or stranger. Robux come only from the Roblox app or website, a real Roblox gift card, or legitimate earnings inside Roblox. Anything else is a trap for the child's password.

SCAM ALERT

Never share the password — not even with a "friend"

Roblox, Epic and Microsoft will never ask for a password in a chat, a message or a game. A "friend" who asks for it to "help level up" or "hold your items" is the most common way children lose accounts.

SCAM ALERT

Scams aimed at grandparents, too

A call or text claiming a grandchild ran up charges in a game and owes money — payable by gift card — is a scam. So is a pop-up saying the device is infected because of a game. Hang up, close the window, and call the parents or me.

Protecting the account

1. Use a strong, unique password for each game account — different from every other password.
2. Turn on **2-step verification** for the account where it's offered, using the parent's email or phone.
3. Teach children to sign in only by opening the app or typing the company's address themselves — never from a link in a message.
4. Check that the email on the account belongs to a parent, so a reset can't be hijacked.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A child who knows "nothing is free, and the password stays secret" is protected from almost every gaming scam out there.

CHAPTER 21

If Something Goes Wrong

Problems happen even with the best settings. Here's what to do, calmly, in the most common situations.

A charge you don't recognize

1. Look at the email receipt or the card statement to see **which store** charged you — Roblox, Epic, Microsoft, Apple, Google, PlayStation, Xbox or Nintendo.
2. Ask the child, gently, what they bought. Often it's an honest mistake.
3. Contact that store's support and ask about a refund. Policies vary, so ask politely and promptly.
4. Turn on the spending limit or purchase approval for that store so it doesn't happen again (Chapters 12, 15 and 18).

The child's account was taken over

1. Try to sign in and change the password right away, using "forgot password" if needed.
2. If the email or password was changed by someone else, contact the game company's support and explain that the account was compromised.
3. Change the password on any other account that used the same password.
4. Turn on 2-step verification once the account is back.

Someone was unkind or inappropriate

1. Take a photo of the screen with your phone.
2. Use the game's **block** and **report** tools on that player.
3. Thank the child for telling you. Make it clear they did the right thing.
4. Tighten chat settings if needed (Chapters 13, 16 and 17).

TIP

Blocking on Roblox

On Roblox, a parent can also block a user from the child's Parental Controls. A blocked person can't chat directly with the child or send a new friend request without the parent's permission.

FROM BILL

When it feels like too much

Hacked accounts and refund requests can be a maze of forms. If you'd rather not fight through it alone, that's exactly the kind of thing I help with — see Chapter 24.

PART 7

Playing Together & Screen Time

How a grandparent can join in — on the same couch or from another state — and how to keep screen time from becoming a battle.

CHAPTER 22

Playing Together: How a Grandparent Joins In

You don't need to be good at games to play with a grandchild. You just need to show up. Being the clumsy beginner while a child teaches you is half the fun — for both of you. Here's how to get into each game.

Minecraft: the gentlest place to start

- **Same TV:** on game consoles, Minecraft supports split-screen, so two or more people can play on one television with a controller each. Plug in a second controller and press its button to join.
- **Same house, two devices:** when two devices running Bedrock Edition are on the same home Wi-Fi, a world opened on one can usually be joined from the other — look in the **Friends** tab. Both need to be signed in to a Microsoft account allowed to play multiplayer (Chapter 17).
- **From another town:** a family **Realm** (Chapter 9) is always on and invitation-only. The owner invites you, and you join from your own tablet or computer.
- Try **Creative** mode or **Peaceful** difficulty first: no monsters, just building together.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Building a house together in Minecraft is one of the easiest, calmest ways for a grandparent and grandchild to play. There's no losing, no hurry, and plenty to talk about.

Roblox: friends, with the parents' okay

1. Create your own free Roblox account on your phone, tablet or computer, using your **real** birth date.
2. Complete the **age check** (Chapter 13) so chat can work.
3. Tell the grandchild your Roblox user name, and have them send you a friend request (or you send one).
4. Because Roblox keeps adults and children in separate chat groups, ask to become a **Trusted Friend**. For a child under 13, the request goes to the parent, who approves it in Parental Controls.
5. Once you're friends, you can join the experience your grandchild is playing from their profile and play side by side.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is how it's meant to work

Roblox designed Trusted Friends for exactly this: a child's real-life friends and family. A parent approving Grandma as a Trusted Friend is the system doing its job.

Fortnite: start in LEGO Fortnite

1. Create a free Epic Games account for yourself.
2. Install Fortnite on your device (or use a second controller on the family console, where supported).
3. Send your grandchild an Epic friend request. If the parents turned on **PIN for friend requests**, they'll type the PIN to approve you.
4. Join their party and choose **LEGO Fortnite** for a gentle building adventure, rated E10+.

TIP

Two players on one TV

Some Fortnite modes allow two players on one screen on PlayStation and Xbox. Ask the grandchild — they'll know exactly which modes work on your family's console.

Just watching counts, too

If playing isn't your thing, pull up a chair and ask to watch. Ask questions. Cheer. Many children would rather have an audience than a teammate.

FROM BILL

Make it a standing date

A regular "Minecraft Sunday" or a weekly Roblox visit — even ten minutes on a video call before the game — gives a grandchild something to look forward to, and gives you a front-row seat to their world.

CHAPTER 23

Screen Time Without the Fights

How much is too much? There's no single right number, and every family decides differently. What works almost everywhere is agreeing on the rules ahead of time and letting a timer enforce them.

Where to set limits

Game or device	Where the limit lives
Roblox	Daily limit in Parental Controls, in 15-minute steps (Chapter 14).
Fortnite	Daily play time and allowed hours in Epic's parental controls, with a 30-minute warning (Chapter 16).
Minecraft	Use the device's own screen-time settings (Chapter 18).
Any device	iPhone and iPad Screen Time, Nintendo's app, PlayStation and Xbox family settings.

Habits that help

- **Agree first, then set the timer.** Children accept a limit they helped choose.
- **Give a warning.** "Ten minutes left" lets them finish a round or save a build.
- **Games end before bedtime** — not at bedtime.
- **Devices charge outside the bedroom** overnight.
- **Play, then something else.** A walk, a snack, a board game, a book.

TIP

Know when a game can be paused

Some games, like Minecraft on your own world, can be paused any time. Online matches in Fortnite can't — leaving early lets down teammates. Knowing the difference avoids a lot of "just one more minute!"

FROM BILL

At Grandma's house, Grandma's rules

It's perfectly fine for your house to have its own rules. Ask the parents what they use at home, keep the important ones (bedtime, spending), and feel free to add your own: "At my house, we play together."

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

When the timer is the referee, you get to be the fun grown-up — the one who plays, not the one who nags.

PART 8

When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

An honest word about when a hand is worth it, and a one-page summary to keep handy.

CHAPTER 24

When to Call Bill

I've written this guide so you can handle most of these settings on your own. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time and worry. Here's my straight advice.

Times it's well worth a call

- **Setting up a new console or tablet as a gift** — accounts, parental controls, spending limits and chat settings for all three games, done before the big day.
- **A Roblox parent account won't link**, or the Epic consent email never arrived.
- **Charges you don't recognize** and you can't tell which store they came from.
- **A child's account was hacked** and needs to be recovered.
- **Setting up a family Minecraft Realm** and getting everyone invited.
- **Getting a grandparent set up to play together** — your own accounts, age check and friend requests.
- **You'd simply rather have a patient person do it with you.** That's always reason enough.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace — no rushing, no talking down and no gamer jargon. I explain what I'm doing in plain words, and I'll tell you honestly when a subscription isn't worth your money. I bring 30+ years of professional experience to every visit, and Bill's Home Tech serves Portage County, Ohio. I can often help over a remote session, or come to your home.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call or text **(330) 200-8042**, or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. My help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. This guide is free to keep and share.

GOOD TO KNOW

You may meet Sophie first

When you call or visit billshometech.com, you may be greeted by **Sophie**, my AI receptionist. She can answer quick questions and help you book a time with me. A real person — me — does the actual help.

Thank you for taking the time to understand the games your grandchildren love. Knowing how they work is the first step to playing them together.

— Bill

CHAPTER 25

Your Roblox, Fortnite & Minecraft Cheat-Sheet

Keep this summary handy. The whole guide, boiled down.

The essentials

To do this	Do this
Roblox controls	Parent's linked account > **Settings** > **Parental Controls** > child.
Roblox spending limit	> **Settings you manage** > **Spending restrictions** (zero is allowed).
Roblox chat	Age check required. Under 13: Trusted Friends need a parent's approval.
Fortnite controls	Child's Epic account > **Parental Controls** > six-digit PIN.
Fortnite chat	**Friends Only** or **Nobody**; require PIN for friend requests.
Minecraft online play	account.xbox.com/settings or the Xbox Family Settings app.
Minecraft chat	**Others can communicate...** > **Friends** or **Block**.
Console purchases	Lock those in the console's or phone's own controls too.
Free Robux / V-Bucks	Always a scam. Never share a password.

Write it down once

Keep handy	
Child's Roblox user name	_____
Parent's Roblox account email	_____
Child's Epic account email	_____
Epic Parental Controls PIN (keep private)	_____
Child's Microsoft account email	_____
Family organizer's Microsoft account	_____
Subscriptions and renewal dates	_____

When something's wrong, in order

1. Stay calm, and thank the child for telling you.
2. Take a photo of anything upsetting or suspicious on the screen.
3. Block and report the player, or check which store a charge came from.
4. Change passwords and tighten the settings in Part 4 and Part 5.
5. Call Bill at (330) 200-8042 — that's what I'm here for.

Money-smart and safe habits

- Set a Roblox **spending limit** and Epic's **purchase PIN**.
- Turn on purchase approval on the console, phone or tablet too.
- Give gift cards bought from **real stores** instead of saving a card on the account.
- Check which subscriptions renew, and decide on purpose.
- Never pay anyone with gift cards, and never share a password or sign-in code.